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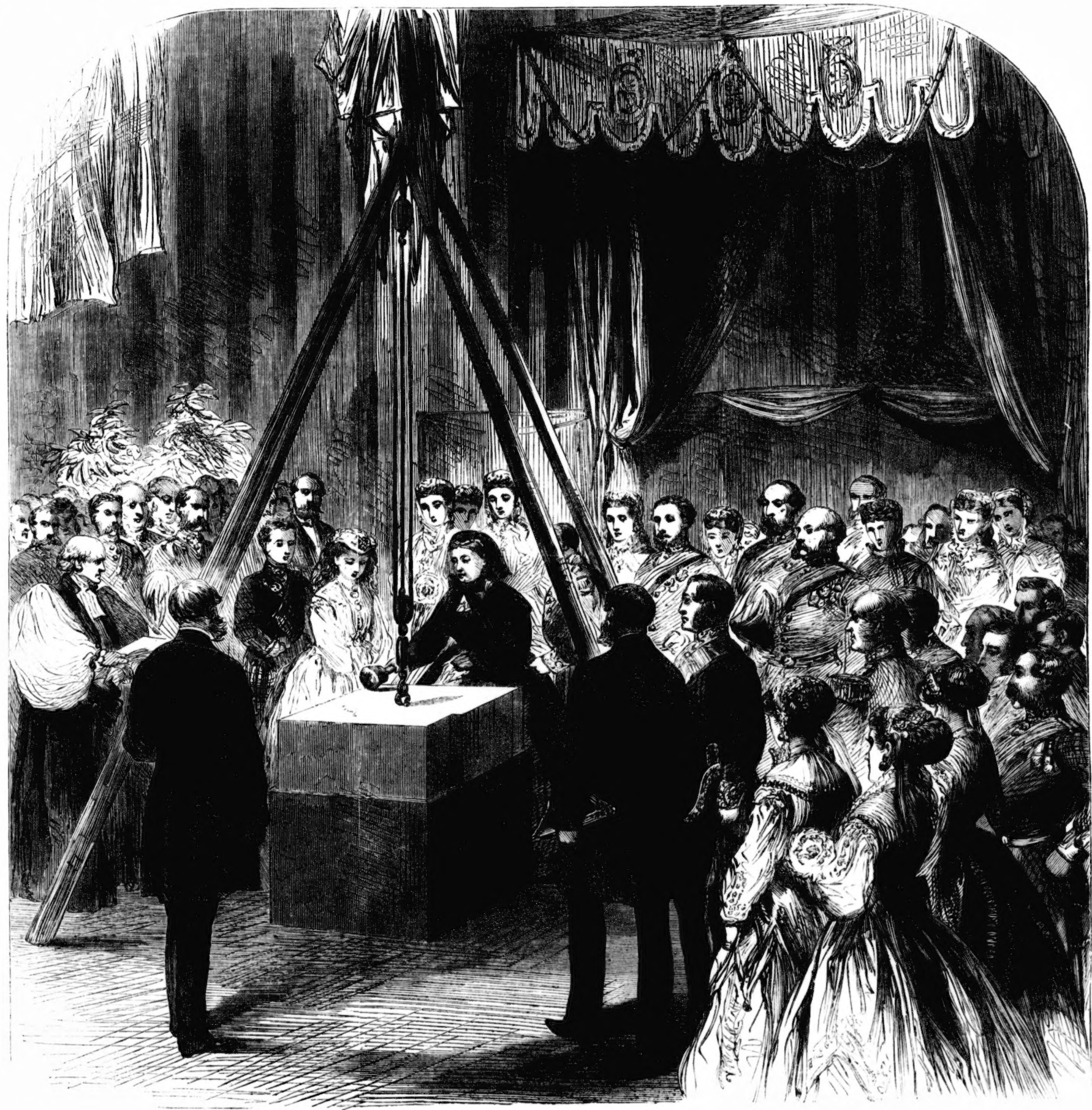
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FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

COMMERCE, so little prized—or rather, we should say, the object of so much contempt—in the Middle Ages, is now universally recognised as one of the most useful auxiliaries of civilisation. In every part of Europe commercial progress seems to have taken the lead of political progress, and commercial liberty of political liberty. The old Zollverein, or Customs Union, brought about the union of North Germany, as far as trade and tariffs were concerned, long before the

formation of the North German Parliament, under the leadership of Prussia and at the instance of Count Bismarck; and now the Zollverein for all Germany, which is to the North German Bund much what the North German Bund is to the Kingdom of Prussia, is actually represented in an assembly of its own, which is doubtless the precursor of a regular and complete German Parliament. Nations and States ought to love one another for higher and nobler reasons; but, in practice, they are brought together by material interests, and

bound together by commercial ties. As long as they were taught that it was wicked and, above all, non-Christian to fight, they fought all the same. Spiritual motives scarcely influenced them at all. But now that they are beginning to discover how very much it is to their advantage to remain at peace, the world is really becoming more peaceful. Nations have no wish to go to war at all; and only nationalities, more or less oppressed, talk of drawing the sword. We are not losing sight of the fact that, inasmuch as civil wars are still possible,



HER MAJESTY LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF NEW ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY LEMERE, 147, STRAND.)

it is still possible that separate nations, however much interested in keeping the peace, may yet fall out. But the chances are greatly diminished by commercial intercourse between them; and a good treaty of commerce is more likely to bear peaceful fruit than the most skilfully-devised political compact. A political treaty is, in most cases, a convention imposed by one State, or combination of States, upon another, to be observed just as long as it may suit the convenience of the weaker party not to break through it. But a commercial treaty, like mercy, should bless both the giver and the receiver; so that the longer it lasts, the greater will be the benefit it confers, and, consequently, the greater the disposition on both sides to maintain it.

In preparing, conjointly with the Emperor, the commercial treaty between England and France, Mr. Cobden looked, no doubt, beyond the mere material advantages that were to be derived from it. Mr. Gladstone thought, with reason, that Bordeaux, at one shilling a bottle, would be found an agreeable, healthy, and eminently moral substitute for more spirituous compounds; but what must have struck Mr. Cobden, as a friend, if not an actual member, of the Peace Society, was the certainty that, if we sold large quantities of manufactured articles of one kind to the French; and they, on their side, sold large quantities of manufactured articles of another kind, besides natural products, to us, then an immense number of persons on both sides of the Channel would, from self-interest, do their best to avert war if the two countries should be threatened with such a calamity. France cannot conquer us: we cannot conquer France. "Jamais en France l'Anglais ne regnera"—he doesn't want to! "Britons never will be slaves!"—no one asks them to be anything of the kind! But, in the mean while, though one country cannot permanently vanquish the other, each may, in a war, do the other a prodigious deal of mischief; and apart even from whatever intrinsic merits it may possess, any treaty, understanding, or additional connection of any kind between England and France, is calculated to produce a good moral and anti-military effect.

No one feels and comprehends this more fully than the Emperor, who, as regards political economy, if not politics as applied to society in general, is far in advance of the great majority of his subjects. Of the importance attached by his Majesty to intercommunication between France and England we have had an instance quite lately. In receiving M. Boutet, the engineer who proposes to throw a railway bridge across the Channel, the Emperor, we are told, gave him every encouragement; and, what is far more remarkable, showed himself "perfectly informed on every part of the question." Nothing could have been more encouraging than his Majesty's reception of the inventor: and, independently of the greatness and utility of the design, the Emperor would probably like to see it completed as an additional and certainly very massive link between the two countries.

Unfortunately the French—even French statesmen and historians—are not so clear-sighted as their experienced and intelligent Sovereign. Not that they would deny the value of the bridge if they could only get themselves to believe that it could be made. But many of them deny utterly the value of the French commercial treaty, which morally, if not physically, has had so important an effect in connecting the two countries. We drink the wines of Bordeaux and Burgundy; the French, instead of coffee, are now learning to take tea. We send them the hardest iron; they send us the softest silk. Every one profits by the exchange, and yet we find silk-weavers in Coventry, and wine-growers in the French Legislature, perpetually complaining of the cruelty shown to them by the Government in not making them the particular objects of its solicitude and protection. The fallacies uttered by the French Protectionists in the recent debate have been fully and cleverly exposed by M. Olivier in the Chamber, and by M. de Molinay (the talented Belgian economist) in the *Journal des Débats*. M. Olivier delivered a long speech, in which he defended free-trade principles, and complimented England on having adopted them before the rest of the world. When he went on to remark that "if war had not broken out between Prussia and France, apropos of Luxemburg, that was due to the friendly and efficient intervention of England," there was some clamour in the Chamber, which M. Olivier silenced by adding, "And why did England use her good offices? Was it only to be of service to us? It was especially to benefit herself, because, in point of fact, her prosperity is identified with our own; it was as much her interest as ours."

The discussion on the commercial treaty has been closed by the Chamber passing to the order of the day; but, as the question is likely to be again brought forward, honourable deputies would do well to study, not only the effect of the treaty upon the trade of the two countries, but also its political influence as pointed out by M. Olivier.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

OUR last week's Number contained a full account of the laying of the foundation-stone of new St. Thomas's Hospital by her Majesty. To that account we have nothing to add, in connection with the accompanying Engraving, save that, by order of the Queen, the sum of £100 is to be distributed amongst the workmen engaged in the erection of the Hospital.

THE EMPRESS CHARLOTTE.—The latest information relative to the Empress Charlotte states that her medical attendants have advised her to travel, in order to confirm her health by occupying her mind. The place to which she is to go is not yet fixed; she frequently manifests—by broken phrases in which the word *Miramar* recurs often—her desire to see once more the favourite residence of Maximilian, and where she passed the happiest years that followed her marriage. The doctors at present oppose this visit, fearing the effects of too strong an emotion. Her mind is recovering its lucidity more and more, and she takes great interest in the events in Austria, of which she desires to be constantly informed.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

On Wednesday, M. Rouher closed the debate in the Corps Législatif on the subject of the treaty of commerce with England, which he strongly defended, and plainly announced that the French Government would not withdraw from it. Finally, the attack on the treaty was defeated by the Chamber passing to the order of the day by a large majority.

A serious difference has arisen between the Archbishop of Algiers and Marshal MacMahon. The Archbishop wishes to introduce the Roman Catholic religion among the Arab population generally, or, in case of their not accepting it, to force them back into the desert. The Marshal objects to any interference with the natives calculated to rouse their religious prejudices, especially at a time like the present; and he seems to be under the impression that the difficulty found at all times in managing the Arabs would be increased by the Archbishop's efforts. "And a pretty failure your management of them without religion has been," says the Archbishop in effect; "you have now, under pretence of not wishing to provoke their fanaticism, kept them in ignorance of the Gospel for thirty-eight years, and see what you have made of them." It should be added that the Archbishop disclaims all idea of employing constraint for the conversion of the infidels. All he asks for is liberty to speak to them, so that he may induce them to give up fatalism, polygamy, and debauchery, and make them perceive that "France and her Emperor are greater in the eyes of God and men than Turkey and the Sultan."

Corneille's House, 18, Rue d'Argenteuil, is doomed to destruction. The Hausmanic fiat has gone forth, and the historic walls will speedily be reduced to dust beneath the city pickaxes. Antiquaries may groan over the spirit of the age, which ruthlessly sweeps all that is antique and venerable into the dusthole; but Paris must have another avenue, and this new one is to surpass in breadth and magnificence any yet erected, and will run from the Boulevard des Capucines right up to the Place du Théâtre Français; so one may drive over the spot where Corneille wrote his tragedies to see them acted at the Français.

ITALY.

A numerous meeting of members of the Right was held on Tuesday evening. The Minister of Finance, who was present, delivered a speech representing the vital importance to Italian Credit of passing the Grist Tax Bill and the other financial measures, which would yield a total estimated benefit to the revenue of 110,000,000 lire. The Minister said that he had almost terminated the negotiations for a financial operation to cover the deficit of the present year, but the capitalists would withdraw if the above measures were rejected by the Chamber. If, on the contrary, they were accepted, no fresh issue of paper money would be necessary. In conclusion, the Minister urged a numerous attendance in Parliament to secure the adoption of the measures.

SPAIN.

From Madrid we hear of the rights of women being asserted in a somewhat unpleasant form. Four thousand female cigar-makers, receiving their regular pay, armed with open scissors, rushed into the director's office, who only escaped with his life by jumping from the balcony outside his window into the court below. These amiable ladies next set about erecting barricades—an act in which they proved adepts, inasmuch as on the arrival of the Minister of Finance, his Excellency was received by a shower of brickbats, old crockery, and a variety of other utensils. He naturally retired from the scene of action, and sent down a body of police, with orders to take the factory by storm, in the midst of which a young girl (we translate literally) increased the numbers within the factory by an infant recruit, whose unexpected arrival created considerable confusion. The police effected a breach in the outworks, and captured 200 of the petticoated garrison, which did not prevent the remaining 3800 from proceeding on the following day to the palace-yard, and there enacting a burlesque on the famous visit of the poissardes to Versailles in 1789; and to complete the parody the Queen appeared on the balcony, and endeavoured to appease the fair malcontents. They retired on receiving money, distributed amongst them by her orders.

PRUSSIA.

Certain Hanoverians who were put on their trial for high treason have been found guilty by the Court at Berlin and sentenced to imprisonment, some for a year, and others for fifteen months. A bill for the abolition of capital punishment was on Tuesday rejected in the Upper House of the Prussian Parliament, after seven hours' debate, by twenty-two against fifteen votes. The three clerical members of the House, we are told, voted for the retention of the death penalty, and the Crown Prince in favour of its abolition. A clause doing away with corporal punishment was unanimously agreed to.

A considerable deficit has been made known in the war budget of Northern Germany. Recourse, however, will not be had either to a loan or extraordinary credit. It is not supposed that Count von Bismarck will be embarrassed by this deficit, being convinced that it will be easy for him to obtain a bill of indemnity when the supplementary expenses shall have been incurred.

AUSTRIA.

A Cabinet Council was held on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Emperor, when the Imperial sanction was given to the law relative to the position of the different religious denominations in Austria. The Financial Sub-Committee of the Lower House has resolved that the public debt shall be converted in a compulsory manner into Rentes, bearing interest, not at 5 per cent as proposed, but at 4 per cent, which would be equal to a deduction of 25 per cent from the amount of the coupons. The Sub-Committee proposes, also, that those debts which were contracted with the obligation that they should not be subjected to any taxation shall in proportion bear a higher interest. The Minister of Finance insists that the tax on the coupons, or the deduction from the interest to be paid, shall not exceed 17 per cent. At its sitting on Wednesday the Budget Committee adopted the proposals of the Sub-Committee with reference to the conversion of the State debt and the taxation to be imposed upon prizes in the lottery. It was resolved that prizes in the State lottery should be subjected to a deduction of 25 per cent, and prizes in private lotteries to a deduction of 15 per cent.

The Hungarian regiments out of Hungary have been ordered to return to their native country, and will replace the German regiments at present there, who return to Austria.

RUSSIA.

Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Marie Feodorovna, née Princess Dagmar, gave birth to a Prince on Monday. The name of the young Prince is to be Nicholas.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Senate Court, last Saturday, acquitted the President of the charges laid against him in the last of the impeachment articles. This was the eleventh article, which was voted on first, apparently as a test vote on the whole proceedings. The numbers for conviction were thirty-five, and against conviction nineteen. As a two-thirds vote was necessary to pass the article, the charge accordingly failed. The Senate Court then adjourned till the 26th inst., without voting on the other articles.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill admitting North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Louisiana to representation in Congress.

Mr. Davis's trial has been postponed until June 3, and the bail bonds have been renewed.

CANADA.

Several members of the Hibernian Society at Toronto have been arrested by the authorities, who report that they have discovered treasonable papers among its records, including documents from a society of Massachusetts Fenians, holding their meetings at Worcester.

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

A DESPATCH has been received at the Colonial Office, from the Earl of Belmore, giving the details of the attack upon his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

It appears that the picnic held at Clontarf was given in aid of an excellent institution called the Sailors' Home. Notwithstanding the fact that the charges for admission were £1 and 10s. respectively for ladies and gentlemen, about 1500 persons were present.

The Royal party arrived at Clontarf shortly after two o'clock, and at once proceeded to the luncheon-table. After luncheon was concluded the Prince walked with Lady Belmore to another tent opposite to an open space, where a "corroboree" by some 500 of the natives had been arranged to come off. As soon as the ladies had arrived at this tent, his Royal Highness walked into the open space in company with Sir W. Manning, the Chief Justice, to whom he was about to hand a cheque in aid of the Sailors' Home. They had walked about sixty or eighty yards, when Lord Belmore, who was some distance behind, heard no shot, but a cry from the other side of the open space, near a belt of gum-trees, and on turning round he saw a rush of people. What followed is described by his Lordship as follows:—

I had not gone many yards when I met a number of persons carrying his Royal Highness between them towards the tent. I immediately saw that he was not killed, and the expression of his face struck me at once as not being that of a person mortally wounded. I turned to precede him to the tent, and meeting Captain Lyons, R.N., of her Majesty's ship *Charybdis*, asked him to go and get the ladies out of it. He hurried off at once, and by the time I reached it only two or three were remaining in it, strangers to me, whom I immediately ordered out, and I endeavoured to arrange some cushions to place the Duke on, which was scarcely done before his Royal Highness was brought in.

The first thing I recollect the Duke saying was, "Give me air." The side of the tent was pulled up, and I took off his neckcloth and opened his shirt and under-waistcoat. Mr. Elliot Yorke took from him at the same time several articles of value, such as his watch, &c., which he was wearing, his Royal Highness displaying meanwhile great self-possession.

Dr. Watson, surgeon of her Majesty's ship *Challenger*, was among the persons who carried his Royal Highness to the tent; and Dr. Powell, assistant surgeon of her Majesty's ship *Galatea*, and several medical gentlemen who were on the ground were almost immediately in attendance, one of whom, Dr. Wright, fortunately had his instrument-case with him.

On his Royal Highness's dress being removed, the bullet was found to have entered half an inch from the spine, between the ninth and tenth ribs, taking an oblique direction, and was found to have lodged about five inches from the umbilicus, and four inches and a quarter beneath the right nipple, having in its course traversed a distance of twelve inches and a quarter. The shock was very considerable, and it was thought advisable not to remove the ball at the time.

My Aide-de-Camp, Captain Beresford, started off in the Fairy to secure the attendance of Dr. Young (surgeon of her Majesty's ship *Galatea*) at Government House by the time the Duke might arrive. Lady Belmore and the ladies of the parties, accompanied by Lieutenant Fitz-George R.N., followed after a little time, a message being sent by Mr. Fitz-George to the commanding officer of the *Galatea* to have the boats in readiness on our arrival. Lady Belmore was just able to get the needed preparations made in a room on the ground floor at Government House before we arrived.

We were fortunately able to avail ourselves of the services of two of the trained nurses, selected by Miss Florence Nightingale for the Sydney Infirmary, and who had only arrived in the ship *Dunbar Castle* the week before, under the superintendence of Miss Young.

From the published account accompanying the despatch Lord Belmore, addressing the Duke of Buckingham, says:—

Your Grace will learn that O'Farrell came behind his Royal Highness (who, in common with several other naval officers, wore a uniform frock coat and white trousers) while walking with Sir William Manning, and deliberately shot him in the back with a revolver, being at a distance from him at the time of from four to six feet. He then covered with his pistol Sir William Manning, who had turned round towards him, but, providentially, this barrel missed fire. O'Farrell has since stated that this second shot was also intended for the Duke. He raised the pistol a third time, intending, he says, to shoot himself. At this moment, Mr. Vial, coach-builder in this city, jumped upon his back and forced his hand down. The result was that the ball struck a gentleman (Mr. Thorne) who was running towards his Royal Highness, passing through his trousers, the elastic of his boot, and his sock, and entering the foot a little in front of and below the inner ankle, passing in a direction downwards and outwards deep into the arch of the foot, and lodging in the heel bone, near its articulation with the cuboid bone. The ball was firmly embedded in the bone. It was extracted on Saturday, the 14th, and Mr. Thorne is going on well.

O'Farrell was then seized by several persons and taken into custody by Mr. Superintendent Orridge. A determined effort was made by the bystanders to "lynch" him, and I am afraid that, but for the exertions of the Chief Justice, Lord Newry, and the men composing the band of her Majesty's 50th Regiment, he would probably not have left the ground alive, as the police would have been overpowered.

He was got on board a steamer (which was close at hand) in about ten minutes; and, a disposition being shown by the people on shore to agitate and get possession of him, orders were given for the steamer to proceed at once to Sydney.

Lord Belmore adds:—

On Saturday morning, the 14th inst., the shock having disappeared, the bullet was extracted with facility from his Royal Highness by Dr. Young, surgeon of her Majesty's ship *Galatea*, and Dr. Watson, surgeon of her Majesty's ship *Challenger*. Since that time no unfavourable symptoms have occurred, and his Royal Highness continues to progress as favourably as could be wished. There are no symptoms of any injury to the lungs.

The assassin O'Farrell is thirty-three years of age; and, though the son of a butcher colonist, has only been in Sydney since Christmas. After wounding the Duke and attempting three times to shoot Sir William Manning, who at once sprang forward to seize him, he attempted to shoot a coachmaker, Mr. Vial, who had pinioned him from behind. Finding this impossible, he aimed another shot at the prostrate Prince, which happily missed its object, but hit an elderly gentleman, Mr. George Thorne, in the foot. This gentleman fainted and was carried off, while determined attempts were made to lynch the assassin. "Hang him!" "String him up!" was shouted on all sides, and it was only the determined stand made by the police which saved him from the popular fury.

REMARKABLE MIRAGE AT DOVER.—A mirage was strikingly conspicuous on Sunday afternoon and evening at Dover. The dome of the cathedral and Napoleon's Pillar at Boulogne were to be seen from the Green-creak walk by the naked eye; but with a telescope of ordinary power the entrance of the port, its lighthouse, its shipping, and the surrounding houses, the valley of the hillside of Capécure, and the little fishing village of Portel were distinctly visible; whilst on the eastern side the principal features of the country, the lighthouse of Cape Grèze, the adjacent wharves, numerous farms and villages, with their windows illuminated by the setting sun, stood out with extraordinary clearness. Whilst these were under observation a locomotive was seen to leave Boulogne, and travel some miles in the Calais direction, by its puffs and wreaths of white steam. Shortly after sunset the mirage subsided.

"GRAVE AND REVEREND SIGNS" OF AMERICA.—A scene which is described by the *New York Nation* as being "awful" took place in the House of Representatives on the 3rd inst. A personal quarrel had arisen between Mr. Donnelly, a representative of Minnesota, and Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, one of the oldest members in the House. Mr. Donnelly addressed a long speech to his fellow-members, full of vituperation of the grossest kind. The following passage will give a better idea of Congressional eloquence as practised by Mr. Donnelly than any description:—"If there be in our midst one low, sordid, vulgar soul, one barren of mediocre intelligence, one heart callous to every kindly sentiment and to every generous emotion, one tongue leprous with slander, one mouth which is like unto a den of foul beasts giving forth deadly odours; if there be here one character which, while bloated and spotted, yet raves and rants and blackguards like a prostitute; if there be here one bold, bad, empty, bellowing demagogue, it is the gentleman from Illinois." Mr. Washburne retorted by calling Mr. Donnelly "a member who is covered over with crime and infamy, whose record is stained with every fraud, whisky and other trands; a man who has proved false alike to his friends, his country, his constituents, his politics, his religion, and his God." On the day following this little interlude the subject was again brought before the House by a third member, and, after renewed personalities, Mr. Donnelly asked the Speaker whether it would be in order for him to invite the House to take a drink, to which there were responses of "Amen," "My whistle's dry," &c. The Speaker appears to have tried to repress this outbreak, but ineffectually. "We venture," remarks the *Nation*, "to say that Mr. John Morrissy—the prizefighter member for New York—has never heard in his experience, and he has associated with the worst ruffians of both hemispheres, . . . so much vile ribaldry from the lips of one man, in one place, as the Legislature of this Christian, civilised country listened to by unanimous consent, last week, from one of its own members, while the chief magistrate was actually on trial in the next room for simple violence and indecency." Probably this same impression had something to do with the verdict on the eleventh article of impeachment.

LAST DAYS OF CAPTIVITY IN ABYSSINIA.

ON Tuesday the *Pall Mall Gazette* published an interesting letter from Mr. Rassam, detailing the last days of the captivity in Magdala, and on Wednesday the following appeared in the same journal:—

Camp Babba, Dalanta, April 19, 1868.

Long ere you receive this the welcome news of our release will have reached you by telegram, and I suppose the letters of the newspaper correspondents will have put you in possession of the principal details. I have therefore nothing to add, but simply to take advantage of a few moments of leisure to give you my own personal experiences of the affair.

On the evening of Tuesday, April 7, we received an intimation that we were to descend the mountain the following morning in order to have an interview with the King. We immediately concluded that we were not to return, and our apprehensions were not lessened when we learned that all the native prisoners, some 500 in number, were also summoned below. At daybreak Mr. Flad came to us, accompanied by Bitwaddad Hassane, the new chief of the Amba, and we were directed to dress ourselves quickly and make our way down. As we were passing out of the compound, beyond which we had not set our feet for fifteen months, the tears of our servants sufficiently indicated the fate they believed to be in store for us. However, off we went; and in about half an hour reached the centre of Salame, where the King was seated on a stone, dressed in a richly-brocaded silk shirt, woven with gold thread, and white silk trousers—in short, presenting much the appearance of a harlequin. To our relief, he politely accosted us, and, seeing that Cameron was much exhausted and fatigued, motioned him to a seat. He then moved forward a few steps, and directed Rassam, Blanc, Cameron, and myself to seat ourselves near him. The rest of the prisoners remained standing at a respectful distance behind. While a tent which he had ordered to be prepared for our reception was being pitched, the King entered into a desultory conversation with Mr. Rassam, in the course of which he alluded to the story of Damocles, indicating thereby the troubles which always impend over the head of monarchs. Twenty minutes were spent in this manner, at the end of which we were ushered into the tent which had been got ready for us, and where breakfast was brought to us after a short time. In the course of the day our tents and baggage were brought down from the Amba, and we were ordered by the King to put ourselves up in the way we formerly used to do. Before this, however, he had been boasting much amongst his own soldiers, trying, as I believe, to keep up their spirits, which were rather damped by the prospect of a speedy encounter with our troops. Among other things he told a body of 250 men, whom he was despatching to Aroge, that directly they saw the English approach they were to fire off their pieces at them; the English would reply, but directly they had fired one volley they would be unable to load again in time to withstand the shock of the Abyssinian spear; "in which case," he added, "you will enrich yourself with spoil compared to which the rich dress I am wearing is but an insignificant trifle." Before proceeding to the top of Selasse hill, from which he is in the habit of making his reconnaissances, he ordered the execution of seven prisoners, including the young wife and infant child of one of his servants who had escaped from Magdala a few months ago; these were ruthlessly shot, and their remains flung over the nearest precipice.

We saw nothing of his Majesty the next day; but in the afternoon received a message to the effect that he had seen the British troops descending the Beshilo, and had remarked among them four elephants and some white animals, which we surmised to be Berbera sheep. A short time afterwards a friend of ours (for we had a few friends at Magdala) came to Mr. Rassam and implored us to keep within our tents, for the King was in a fearful passion, and was then issuing an order to kill all his native prisoners, who were confined in a few houses a couple of hundred yards off. The repeated discharge of firearms, which we heard soon afterwards, confirmed the sad story; and it was with many misgivings that we asked ourselves "What next?" At dusk, however, the King returned, and we retired to our tents comparatively at our ease. From what I have heard, it appears that the King rushed down mad with rage and arrackee, and, calling out one of the prisoners, hacked him to pieces with his own sword. Another speedily met the same fate. The third was a boy about ten years of age. His youth and innocence (for it was his father who had been the offender) were no protection; he was mangled in the same way as the two others. The cutting and slashing went on in this manner for some time, when the King, finding this mode of execution too slow for his impatient spirit, ordered out the musketeers. The remainder were then quickly shot down, and thrown over the low cliff, the force of the shock in several cases opening the chains of the wretched victims. Those whose quivering limbs showed any signs of life were fired on from above till the murderous work was completed. As we gazed on that dreadful heap of corpses, animated but a few days before with life and hope, no one could harbour the slightest feeling of sympathy which otherwise the fate of one would have elicited who like a brave man had met his own doom some short hours since.

Early the next morning (Good Friday) we were informed by a message from the King that we were immediately to return to the Amba, as being a place of greater security than Salame in case of a skirmish. Before he left, he informed Mr. Rassam that, in case he sent a messenger, or even if one of our servants were missing, the covenant between them would be broken. This looked much as if he wished to pick a quarrel with us, as it was quite impossible for us in prison to prevent our servants going when they felt disposed. However, as the means of averting his anger, a conciliatory answer was returned through Mr. Flad. A few minutes afterwards a messenger arrived bearing a letter from Sir Robert Napier, dated April 3, and demanding our release in civil terms. This the King refused to receive, and we immediately returned to our old prison-house, not sorry to escape from the dreaded presence of the incomprehensible Monarch.

In the evening we all of us heard the distant discharge of cannon many times repeated, together with what appeared to be volleys of musketry, many times. Confined in the small compound in which we were situated our prison-houses, it was impossible for us to glean intelligence from anyone outside, and it was therefore only left to us to form our conjectures as to the mysterious sounds. They could only arise either from a conflict between the King and his English foes, or from his Majesty having a grand "fakaring," or boasting, down below, in which case he always fires his heavy guns. Our doubts were only set at rest very late in the evening, when they were solved most satisfactorily. Concerning the "battle of Falia" I shall say nothing. I was not there; and you will have learned all the details from a thousand other sources long ere this.

About ten p.m. we were aroused from sleep by the arrival of Messrs. Flad and Waldmeier, who were the bearers of a message from the King, to the effect that his troops had been defeated by the English, and that he wished to be reconciled to them. Mr. Rassam replied that the only way to bring about his object was to send an envoy with proposals of peace on his part, and he would be happy to dispatch one of the officers attached to the mission on his own part, naming me at the same time as the person whom he would be willing to send. Mr. Flad and his companions then took their departure, but, owing to the vacillating temper of the King, did not return till after daybreak. I was then told to prepare myself, and, as soon as I was dressed, descended the hill in company with Mr. Flad, who had been sole messenger the second time.

The King was sitting on a stone, dressed in his ordinary manner. He received us very graciously, and immediately ordered one of his best mules to be saddled for my use. Noticing that I was rather exhausted after our rapid walk and almost sleepless night, he added to his gift a horn of mead, in order to refresh us on the road. We were then dismissed, with the message, "I had thought before this that I was a strong man, but I have now discovered that there are stronger. Now reconcile me." We then left him, accompanied by Dejai Alame, his son-in-law, for the British camp at Aroge, where we arrived after a two hours' ride, and were warmly greeted by the many friends I had not seen for so long a time and had scarcely expected ever to see again.

After breakfast and a short stay in the camp we returned to his Majesty, bearing a letter from Sir Robert Napier, couched in firm but conciliatory terms, and assuring the King that, provided he submitted to the Queen of England and brought all his prisoners and the other Europeans to the British camp, honourable treatment would be accorded to himself and to all his family. When we arrived he was sitting on the brow of Selasse, overlooking the British camp, and apparently in anything but a pleasant humour. Having been previously joined by Mr. Waldmeier, we presented ourselves before him and delivered to him the letter, which was twice translated to him. At the conclusion of the second reading, he asked, in a deliberate manner, "What does honourable treatment mean? Does it mean that the English will help me to subdue my enemies, or does it mean honourable treatment as a prisoner?" I replied to him that on the first point the commander-in-chief had said nothing; that all his wishes were contained in his letter, and that the English army had simply come into the country to rescue their fellow-countrymen, and, that object effected, they would then return. This answer evidently pleased him but little. All his hopes of re-establishing himself by British aid were dashed to the ground, and he had thereforeforward to lead the precarious life of a brigand chief. His lips, always thin as a sword-blade, quivered nervously; the horseshoe on his forehead grew deeper; but, controlling himself, he motioned us to seat ourselves at a little distance from him while he dictated an answer to his chief scribe; and when it was finished called us forward, delivered it over to us, and bade us depart. The path of this incoherent epistle was simply that he had hitherto surrendered himself to no man, and was not prepared to do so now.

Our second stay in the British camp lasted about a couple of hours, at the expiration of which time the commander-in-chief felt himself called upon to dispatch us, however reluctantly, to the fortress. We took our departure, hoping for the best, but fearing the worst. This time no letter was handed to us, but simply a verbal communication of the same purport as the former note. It was growing dusk as we neared Selasse for the second time, and we were beginning to make the last ascent, when we encountered a European, accompanied by several Abyssinians. This proved to be Mr. Meyer, one of the German artisans who communicated to us the welcome

intelligence that the King had liberated Mr. Rassam, Dr. Blanc, Consul Cameron, and the remaining Magdala prisoners, and that they were now natives. On receipt of these tidings we turned the heads of our mules, and, in company with Mr. Meyer, arrived in the camp as the bearers of good news, not only to ourselves, but to everyone of those who so eagerly surrounded us. Shortly afterwards Mr. Rassam and his party arrived, and it was with heartfelt gratitude that we laid our heads on the pillow that night, secure at last after so many dangers.

In the course of the following morning the remainder of the Europeans, accompanied by their families, arrived. The King also, as it was Easter Sunday, sent a present of 1000 cows and 500 sheep to the commander-in-chief, who, seeing that his Majesty had avoided complying with perhaps the most important terms of the communication addressed to him—namely, his own submission—had no option left but to decline them. From that moment the King must have clearly seen that two courses only were open to him—either to yield himself unconditionally to the British General, or to make a stand on his Amba and fight it out to the last. He chose the latter.

The details of the storming of Magdala you will have seen described by pens much more competent for the duty than mine. Suffice it to say that, after two hours' shelling, the 33rd stormed the fortress, and found the King dead by his own hand and surrounded by about a dozen faithful adherents, who stood by him to the last, some of them dead and but few unscathed. Among them was Ras Engeda, who had followed the King with unwavering fidelity for so many years, and had reaped captivity as his reward, from which he was released but three months. So strong had been the will and so indomitable the energy of his master, however, that he was still able to enchain to his side at this supreme moment a few who, like Ras Engeda, perhaps, forgot the indignities of later years and only remembered the happy days of youth spent in the quiet monastery of Tehankar.

The following morning I paid a visit to the Amba. In a poor hut, lately occupied by one of the European prisoners, lay Theodore, a smile on his lips, and not a trace of the fatal bullet which had done its work so deftly. Who can tell the thoughts which filled the mind of this extraordinary man as he held the barrel to his mouth? Were it not for the sanguinary cruelties which stained every day of his reign, we might be almost tempted to forget our sufferings and feel glad that, having fought his fight well as a soldier in his youth, he had died as a soldier in his age.

Thus ended one of the most curious episodes which history affords. The motives which led Theodore to act as he did in his last days afford much matter for speculation, but no practical benefit. There is no doubt that the overruling hand of Providence has been seen throughout, and we have now only to return thanks for our almost miraculous deliverance.

W. F. PRIDEAUX.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

THE *Times*, *Daily News*, *Morning Herald*, *Telegraph*, and *Morning Post* of Monday contained letters describing the battle before Magdala, the surrender of the prisoners, the capture of the fortress, and its destruction.

Late in the afternoon of Good Friday King Theodore made an unexpected attack on Colonel Milward's force. Misinformed by spies, he fancied that only a small pioneer force was advancing with baggage to find a camping ground for the rest of the army, and 4000 Abyssinians suddenly poured down the slope, charging boldly for the baggage, which at this time was on a hill at the head of a ravine.

THE BATTLE.

They knew not then of what those mule-loads consisted; but they knew it before half an hour had elapsed, for they had caught hold of the scorpion by the tail. In less time than it takes to tell it, a call was made for the 4th King's Own, and they were off down the hill at the double to meet the approaching wave; the pioneers had opened a vigorous and well-directed fire; the rockets of the Naval Brigade were spreading consternation among the enemy, the guns of Colonel Penn's mountain battery (shortly termed the "Steel Penns") were in full play, and the battle was general. It was a fine sight to see the men who had been toiling all day without food or water, and were now to all appearance completely exhausted, throw down their great coats, seize their rifles, and, wet as they were, charge down one hill, through a narrow ravine, and up another hill till within a hundred and fifty yards of the enemy, when volley upon volley from the Sniders proclaimed what could sometimes be but faintly seen through jungle and haze—that the harvest of death was fast being gathered in. The 4th King's Own were on the right, supported by the tenth company of Royal Engineers, the Beloochees, and the Sappers. From a hill in the centre the rocket battery kept its novel and destructive bolts flying now among the wavering crowd, now among the gunners on the bastion of Falia; and on the left the mountain train and Major Chamberlain's well-trieved and never-wanting Musbears from the Punjab frontier worked right well together. Colonel Cameron, not waiting for the whole of his regiment to form up after passing the narrow ravine, took two companies and proceeded rapidly forward, leaving orders for the remainder to reinforce him on debouching from the gorge. This they quickly did, and, notwithstanding the difficult nature of the ground, the seven companies there present were in complete skirmishing order in an incredibly short space of time. Nor were the Engineers and Beloochees idle. The Abyssinians had once or twice attempted to turn the right flank of the line, when the supports, wheeling to the right, drove them as often into a crowd in which a rocket or shell would cause fearful havoc. When the retreat became general, the mountain-train battery was divided, two of its guns being sent on with the pioneers, two kept in the centre, and two on the right front, at all of which positions the power and accuracy of these handy little pieces of ordnance were fully exemplified. It ought to be mentioned that the Panjabees, loth to waste powder and shot upon such foes, charged with the bayonet, killing their enemies by scores. Two companies of the 4th, which were on duty as baggage guard, did excellent service at the head of the Beshilo ravine.

The pluck of the Abyssinians is proved by one writer after another. To describe the fight after the Snider came into place, says the correspondent of the *Times*, would be only to describe a battle. Its sharp, short cracks, following each other in breathless succession, were the death knell of the Abyssinian cause. The unfortunate foe had no longer even the shadow of a chance, but went down like grass before the scythe. How they kept their ground at all when Sniders, mountain guns, and rockets had begun to get fairly at them is a marvel.

The *Post* says that the want of cavalry was felt. With a couple of hundred sabres, Theodore's men would all have been cut to pieces. The enemy's guns on the heights continued firing, but hardly any shot or shell fell in the plain. The victims took advantage of the shelter afforded by every bush and stone, and continued to fight, retreating. By half-past six o'clock all was over. During the whole action the thunder and lightning vied with the roar and flash of the cannon. Not one man on our side was killed, and only nineteen were wounded. The Panjab Pioneers came in for the severest part of the fighting. They surprised the enemy in a ravine, getting so close to them that bayonets and spears were used, and ghastly groups of from five to twenty Abyssinians huddled together in corners from which no escape was possible, showed next morning how fierce, though unequal, the contest had been. Theodore himself did not come out.

THE SCENE AFTER THE BATTLE.

The scene was very shocking. In one or two narrow gorges in which they had been pent up, fifty or sixty dead bodies lay almost piled together. Very ghastly were their wounds. There was a man nearly blown to pieces with a shell; near him another, the upper part of whose head had been taken off by a rocket; then again, one who lay as if in a peaceful sleep, shot through the heart; next to him one less fortunate, who, by the nature of his wound, had lingered in agony for hours through this long night before death brought a welcome relief. Two of them only still lived, and they were carried into camp; but their wounds were of so desperate a character that it was probable they could not live many hours. Strangely enough, there were no wounds of a trifling nature. All who had been almost at the point of death had either managed to crawl away or had been removed by their friends. With very few exceptions, it was a charnel-place of dead, whose gaudy silks and coloured robes were in ghastly contrast with their stiffened and contorted attitudes. Among the few survivors was the commander-in-chief of Theodore's army, who was carried to the camp. He, like the others we were able to succour, expressed his gratitude for our kindness, and said the affair had been a complete surprise to them. They saw what

was apparently a train of baggage without protection coming up the valley, and apparently had not noticed our small body of infantry upon the brow.

The night after the battle was one of extreme hardship, and by dawn every man was again under arms, ready for the assault. An unexpected event here occurred.

ARRIVAL OF CAPTIVES.

Early in the forenoon a small party was seen to descend from Magdala, conspicuous in which were a British uniform and a flag of truce. They were two chiefs from Magdala, with Mr. Flad and Lieutenant Prideaux, who had been sent to effect a reconciliation between Theodore and the English. Cheers announced their arrival in camp, which was soon in a blaze of excitement. Towards mid-day they returned to Theodore with the answer that he must surrender the captives unconditionally, and submit to the Queen of England. From this his proud spirit revolted, and he sent the same two once more, saying he would never give the captives up unless the English aided him to regain his kingdom. Sir Robert Napier's position was an unenviable one: it is easy to see how his answer might affect the issue of the campaign, perhaps frustrate its success. He meditated long; but he played the Roman, and the messengers returned with no answer. It was a sad parting, but one that soon was turned into joy, for on their way up the hill they met Captain Cameron, Mr. Rassam, and all the others except Mrs. Flad and some of the artisans' families. This morning another demand was made, the result of which has been that there is not to-night a single European captive in Magdala except M. Bardel, who represented that he was unable to leave in consequence of sunstroke.

The M. Bardel referred to is the Frenchman who has been suspected of poisoning Theodore's mind against the captives. He was found afterwards ill, in a tent outside Magdala. All the captives are well, and, with the exception of poor Captain Cameron, look not much the worse for their confinement.

Easter Monday saw the British forces engaged in storming the fortress. Captain Speedy was sent on in advance to proclaim that none who laid down their arms would be injured. Part of the ascent was an almost inaccessible track, fit only for one mule at a time, and up which it was almost impossible to convey the scaling-ladders and guns.

Not a shot was fired on either side until a party of 3rd Bombay Cavalry and the Royal Engineers had reached within about a thousand yards of the fortress. Then a body of horsemen, among whom was Theodore himself, rode out and fired a few shots, retreating under cover on finding that they were well within reach of British bullets. One bullet, it is said, struck the ground between Theodore's horse's feet. On the plain opposite the gates were found twenty of Theodore's cannon and mortars, which were instantly used against him. A desultory fire was continued for some time and the signal was given for

THE ASSAULT.

During the last half hour all the infantry had descended from the heights, and immediately the second brigade advanced, led by General Sir Charles Staveley in person. The 33rd were in the van, and to them was assigned the honour of leading the assault, a duty which they discharged in a manner worthy of the fame which has for so many years attached to the gallant corps. They were supported by the 45th Regiment, and the first brigade (consisting of the 4th Regiment, 1st Beloochees, and Madras Sappers) followed at some interval. On reaching the foot of the zigzag leading to the gate a few musket shots were fired from the walls; then our men halted, and for five or six minutes poured into the invisible defenders such an extraordinary and unparalleled fire that no soldiers in the world could have withstood it—no one who saw and heard the uninterrupted volleys will ever forget it, and the bullets rattled with even more frequency and vehemence than the hailstones which were pouring down with tropical violence at the time. It was a knell that must have made many a heart quake within. In five minutes more the leading files of the 33rd and their gallant commanding officer, Major Cooper, were knocking at the door for admission; but it was a formidable barrier—a door of immensely strong wood 3 in. in thickness, behind it a solid wall of masonry 12 ft. in depth, and then a second door similar in construction to the first. Major Pritchard, of the Engineers, was one of the leaders of the storming party, and to him was intrusted the honourable yet perilous task of blowing up the gate. Ye gods! who can account for the strange things that happen? It is incredible, but nevertheless true, that when the powder was asked for no one had it; it had been forgotten. The word was passed for pickaxes and scaling-ladders, but long before they could arrive the boys of the 33rd, eager to close with the foe, and, by no means appreciating the fun of standing still to be shot at, clambered up the steep and dangerous sides of the precipice, and, furiously tearing down the formidable fence which protected the topmost ledge (from behind which the enemy were firing), speedily effected a lodgment in the fort. A loud cheer proclaimed that Magdala was ours, and in the twinkling of an eye the British flag waved proudly over the much anathematized gate, the resistance was a mere nothing, and we lost not a single man.

AFTER THE ASSAULT.

All the troops behaved with the most exemplary moderation, and not a single outrage was committed by the soldiers. I would I could say as much (correspondent of the *Post*) for their officers, some of whom engaged in the most unseemly struggle over the dead body of the King, and were misguided enough to forget their position and devoirs in a mad spirit of rivalry to possess some relic of their fallen foe. Some allowance is due to the excitement of the moment, and perhaps it would be too cruel to gibbet their names in print; but the most emulous and indiscreet were those who from their years and rank were the more culpable.

Of Theodore himself every correspondent speaks in terms of horror. The day before our forces arrived he had all the captives out, and before their eyes, according to the *Herald's* correspondent, put to death 340 prisoners, many of whom he had kept in chains for years. Among them were men, women, and little children. They were brought out, chained, and thrown down on the ground, their heads fastened down to their feet. Among this defenceless and pitiable group the brutal tyrant went with his sword, and slashed right and left until he had killed a score or so. Then, getting tired, he called out six of his musketeers, who continued to fire among the wretched crowd until all were dispatched. Their bodies were then thrown over a precipice. The captives describe the usual mode of execution, by cutting off the hands and feet, as being a refinement of cruelty. A slight gash is made round the member, and it is then wrenched off by main force, the arteries being so much twisted that very little loss of blood takes place. The wretched beings are then left to die. The bodies referred to were found at the bottom of a precipice, a putrefying mass. It is stated that when the King heard of the terms demanded he made an attempt at suicide, but the ball which he fired at himself only grazed his neck. His body was found, not near those of his chiefs, in the gateway, but alone on the hill above. It is said that as the chiefs were shot down he dropped his Royal robe of silk to escape observation, fled from the gateway to a retired spot higher up on the citadel, and there shot himself, putting the pistol into his mouth. From the plainness of his dress the body was not at first recognised; but, as soon as it was identified, and, on the approach of Sir Robert Napier, drawn forth into the principal pathway, an involuntary cheer burst from the soldiers around.

The *Times's* correspondent says:—"His face seemed to me rather a disappointing one after all that has been said about it; but then it was impossible to judge properly after death, especially as the eye was said to be, from its fire and expression, the most remarkable feature. There was a look of bloated, sensual indulgence about the cheeks by no means means heroic or kingly; but the forehead was intellectual, and the mouth singularly determined and cruel. A very strange smile still lingered about the lips, as if even in the death-throe his last thought had been one of triumph at having balked his conquerors by dying a King." He was buried in the church in Magdala, the funeral being attended by a military escort of one or two staff officers.

We have also an account of the Queen and her son. The so-called palace is a dirty rude cabin, in which were

THE QUEEN AND HER SON.

A kind-hearted private, finding himself in the neighbourhood of the palace, was prompted by curiosity to enter. Seeing the Queen, his honest heart could only express his sympathy, in the absence of an interpreter, by a few tender pats on the shoulder, while he told her that "Theodore was *mañsh*, and she was not to be afraid." "Mañsh," it may be mentioned, is one of the few words picked up by the soldiers, signifying "No." Her Majesty is a lady-like woman of about six-and-twenty, with very fair complexion, full eyes, fine aquiline nose, and beautiful hand. What most attracted attention, however, was her magnificent hair, arranged in neat plaits, and, instead of being tied in a knot at the nape of the neck, as is the custom of the country, falling in a cascade of glossy ringlets over her shoulders. Her dress was the simple white cotton dress of the country, gathered in a fold at the waist by a band. Theodore's lefthanded but favourite Queen is altogether a different sort of woman—stout, dark, and voluptuous-looking, reminding one very much of a fat Indian ayah. In the palace was a miscellaneous collection of "Europe" articles, and tokens of a civilisation which showed itself nowhere else—pianos, harmoniums, musical boxes, cartridges for breech-loading rifles, and, as the catalogues say, "a variety of other articles too numerous to mention." The future of Theodore's young son must possess interest for many readers. He is to be placed by Sir Robert Napier under the care of the Rev. Dr. John Wilson, of Bombay, to be brought up and educated at his excellent institution.

Sir Robert Napier offered Magdala to Gobaze, who is now the foremost man in Abyssinia; but he declined it, and the place was at once burnt. The only thing that makes Magdala remarkable—its unequalled natural strength as a mountain fastness—cannot be destroyed. Its artificial fortifications consisted only in a few yards of rough stone wall and palisade, which it may have taken an hour or two to pull down, and a very strong gateway, defended by beams and doors of immense thickness, which it cost a few pounds of powder to blow up.

A letter of the 19th says the army is now on its homeward march. We subjoin a few extracts completing the narrative:—

THE "LOOT."

The loot, on the whole, has rather disappointed the captors. They did not expect much, but still it was believed that Theodore had both gold and silver treasure. If he had, it has somehow disappeared. By an oversight, no orders were given nor any precautions taken against looting; and there is little doubt that, the moment the place was forced, many Abyssinians, who knew best where to look, began to search for plunder. Next day an order was issued that everything taken should be given back; but, as many things had already changed hands, and handsome prices been paid for them as curiosities and relics of Magdala rather than for their intrinsic value, the order was unpopular, and I question whether it has been very strictly obeyed. The late Emperor, too, appears to have behaved to his prisoners and artisans with a generosity which must have left him nearly bankrupt. Scarcely an article of real value has been found which is not declared to have been, at some time or other, presented by him to some one of them, which, therefore, does not go into the general fund to be raised, by the sale of all loot, for the benefit of the non-commissioned officers and men of the force. All these deductions will, I fear, make the proceeds of the sale very small. However, a few curious and valuable relics have been found. Mr. Holmes, for instance, who came out here as archaeologist for the British Museum, and who has hitherto had a singularly disappointing and unfruitful journey, was lucky enough to rescue a handsome crown, probably an archbishop's, and a gold chalice, bearing the following inscription in Amharic:—"The chalice of King Adam Segud, called Yasoo, the son of Queen Brahu Magussa, presented to Kwoakwan Sanctuary (Gondar). May my body and soul be purified! Weight twenty-five wokkita of pure gold, value five hundred dollars. Made by Waldo Georgia." The Emperor's own crown has also been found, and is, I believe, to be sent home to the Queen. I saw in the hands of a British soldier what, under the circumstances, was certainly a very singular and interesting bit of loot, a six-barrelled revolver, with an inscription declaring that it was presented by the Queen to the Emperor Theodore in token of her gratitude for "the kindness shown by him to her servant Plowden." The soldier told me that he had seen five pistols with this inscription, and had had a hard fight to get one for himself; but, so far, only one has been given up to the prize-agents.

THEODORE AND HIS CHIEFS.

Twice his followers stood aloof from him, in sullen, resentful disobedience, when summoned to his side, and positively refused when he invited them, as the last chance, to fly from Magdala, to accompany him and any longer share his fortunes. Even his favourite and most distinguished chiefs, the very men who in the end remained faithful and died with him, seem to have wavered strangely between their old allegiance and their new-born distrust. At one time five of them even formed a conspiracy for seizing him and giving him up to the British; but, at the last moment, his marvellous personal ascendancy reasserted itself, and their hearts failed them. At another time, when he wished, as the British troops were first coming round Selasee, near Magdala, to mount his horse and ride out to meet them, his chiefs implored him, with a devotion worthy of the Old Guard, not to risk his own life, but to let one of them go. He accordingly gave a splendid horse to one of his leading officers, the Commander of Ordnance, and told him to mount it and go forth upon it, and, like a brave warrior, "brag before the enemy, as the time had come to die." He himself shortly followed, also on horseback, with the remaining chiefs, and fired the few bravado shots which drew forth a return volley from the Sniders.

JAPANESE JUGGLERS AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE.

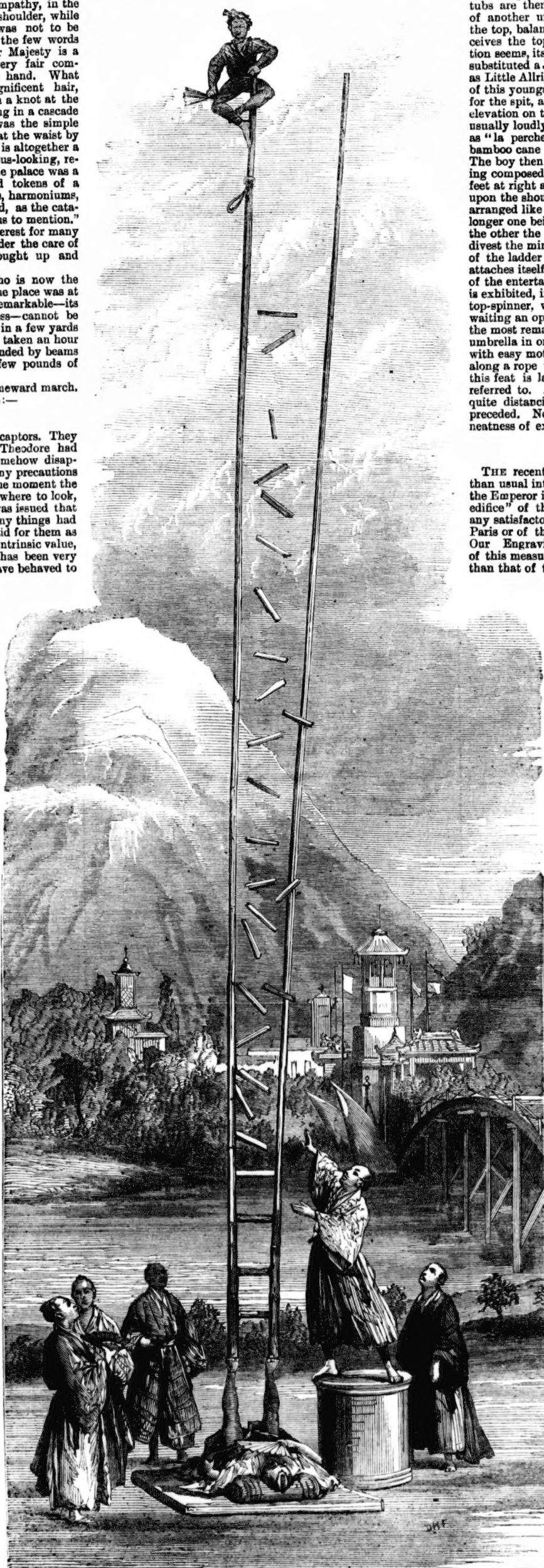
THE Lyceum Theatre has for several weeks past been tenanted by a party of Japanese jugglers, the same which performed in Paris during the whole of the past summer, and which had previously obtained considerable repute in America. No previous performance of the same class yet witnessed in England is so remarkable as this, or so well calculated to display to advantage the singular union of liteness and strength which is the secret of all Oriental *tours de force*. Of the individuals composing the troupe several are children, and more than one appears to be feminine. Conjecture, however, on this point, may easily be at fault, for the dress of both sexes is apparently the same, and is so long, loose, and flowing, as to conceal all external

indications from which difference of sex is ordinarily surmised. One gift old and young seem to possess in common is the remarkable power of grasp of the foot, the long prehensile toes of which are of remarkable service in a variety of the feats exhibited. The programme opens with a series of contortions and somersaults by the younger members of the company. Very clever are the

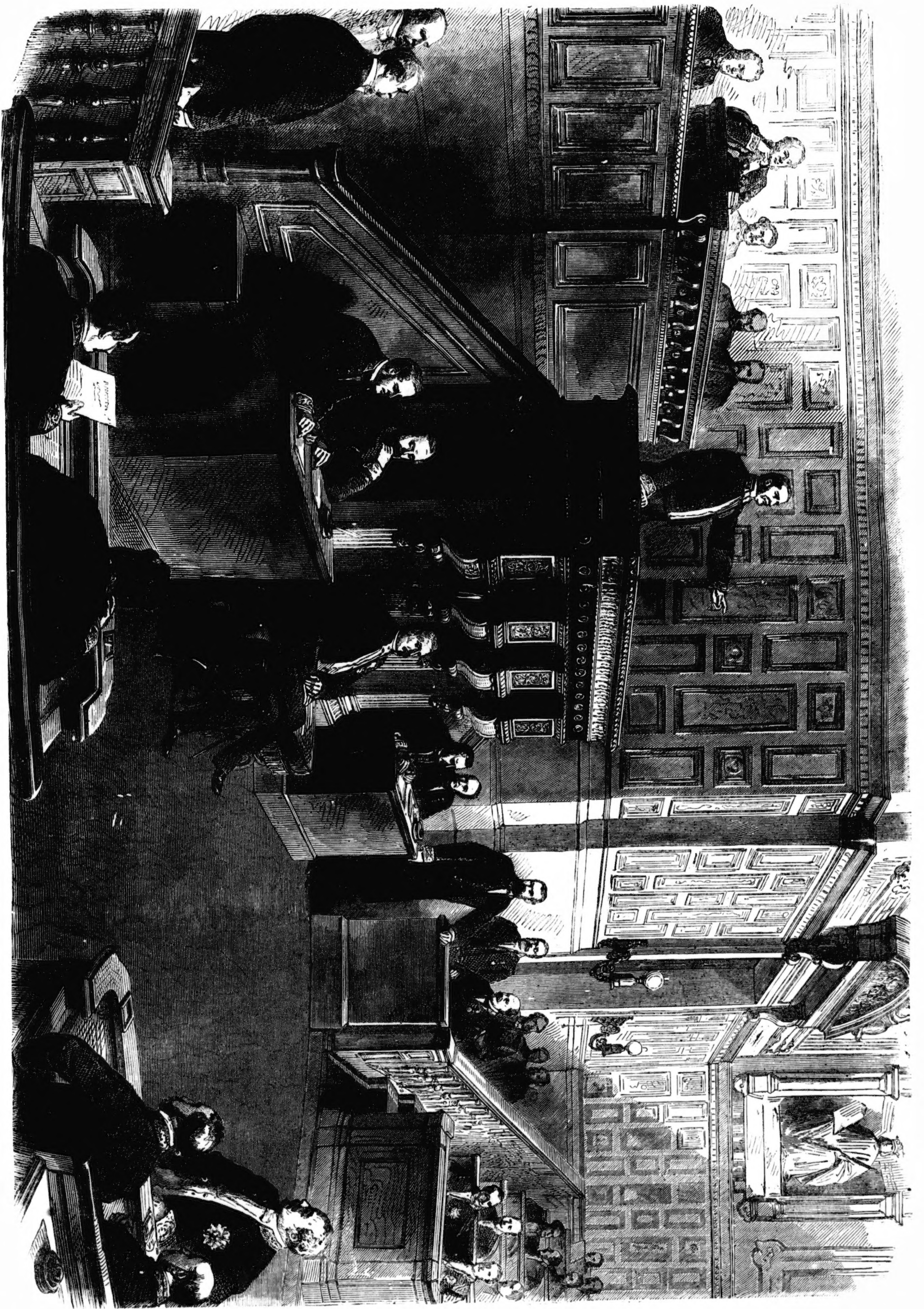
whole of these circular somersaults, in which Oriental nations, particularly the Arabs, excel, and they were strikingly executed. Much laughter was caused by the manner in which the young Japanese, with a complete defiance of all commonly received physiological laws, bend themselves back into the shape of frogs, or hop about mere animated knots of limbs. Then comes a clever feat of balancing. A tub is first balanced upon the feet. Several smaller tubs are then handed to the performer, who, piling one on the top of another until they form a pyramid, and placing the largest on the top, balances the whole; then, kicking them suddenly away, receives the topmost once more upon his feet. Clever as this exhibition seems, its effect is much enhanced when for the topmost tub was substituted a Japanese mite, popularly known in France and America as Little Allright. The contortions and gestures of pretended fright of this youngster, who is trussed up into the form of a bird prepared for the spit, are very comic; and his fall from an absolutely perilous elevation on to the feet of the man beneath him is very clever and is usually loudly applauded. Nor less extraordinary is the feat known as "la perche," in which Master Allright assists. A long flexible bamboo cane is balanced on the shoulder of one of the company. The boy then mounts by hands and feet to the top, sits down, grasping composedly this cane with one leg, or holds himself out by both feet at right angles from it, the cane, the while, remaining balanced upon the shoulder of the performer below. Afterwards two ladders, arranged like a capital letter L, are substituted for the bamboo, the longer one being balanced on the feet, while at the extreme point of the other the lad swings at a dizzy elevation. It is impossible to divest the mind of the notion that the position of the child at the end of the ladder is exceedingly perilous; and a feeling of discomfort attaches itself to this exhibition, for which, happily, the remainder of the entertainment seldom affords cause. Very little top-spinning is exhibited, in consequence, probably, of the death of the champion top-spinner, which occurred while the company was in England waiting an opportunity to appear. Many other feats are exhibited, the most remarkable being the high slack ropewalking. With an umbrella in one hand and a fan in the other, the funambulist glides with easy motion backwards and forwards, often only on one foot, along a rope which oscillates violently. The power to accomplish this feat is largely due to the prehensile nature of the feet before referred to. As a whole, the exhibition is original and startling, quite distancing all Oriental entertainments by which it has been preceded. None of the feats are commonplace or familiar, and the neatness of execution is in all cases remarkable.

THE FRENCH SENATE.

THE recent discussions in the French Senate have been of more than usual interest since they related to that law of the press which the Emperor intended to be one of the accessories to "crowning the edifice" of the Government, but which has not at present produced any satisfactory effect on the minds either of the literary world of Paris or of the people whose interests it was supposed to serve. Our Engraving represents the Senate during the discussion of this measure; and, as the assembly of that body is less public than that of the Corps Législatif, our readers may be interested in the aspect of the French Upper House during the debate. The hall in the Palace of the Luxembourg in which the Senate meets is semicircular, with the President's chair and the tribune in the middle of the chord, and seats and desks arranged in concentric curves. There are about 200 senators, each of whom is appointed by the Emperor for life, and draws a salary of £1200 a year. It is the duty of the Senate to guard the Constitution by annulling any measures which appear to endanger it. The Senate can also modify the details of the Constitution to suit the circumstances of the times. Visitors may apply for admission to the chamber, as well as to other apartments of the palace, on days when the Assembly is not sitting; and, in fact, the sittings are ordinarily held only on two days in the week, unless urgent business requires discussion. These two days are generally Tuesday and Friday. The apartment in which the Senate assembles is a large and lofty hall, surmounted by a cupola roof; below the architrave are fine large windows of ground glass, ensuring a soft and equal light; and below these are the tribunes, which are free to the public at the opening of the Chamber of Peers. They are separated from each other by splendid columns of red marble, and below these tribunes the walls are covered with panelling of carved oak. At night the saloon is lighted by lamps suspended in the tribunes and a great lustre in the centre. There are also lights on the President's desk and at the tribune occupied by successive speakers. The seats consist of seven rows, gradually rising one above the other; and between them are passages leading to the entrance doors and to the lobby by which the Throne-room is entered. The tribune is placed below the President's desk, and the Commissioners of the Government occupy the first row of seats on his left hand. Above the President's seat are the statues of Colbert, Malesherbes, Portales, Molé, d'Aguesseau, and L'Hopital. Before each fauteuil of the senators is a little desk furnished with writing materials, a box for blue and white balloting votes, and the traditional paper-knife. The sittings seldom commence before two o'clock, when the President, accompanied by the members of the bureau, repairs to the saloon between two rows of soldiers, who present arms and sound a flourish of trumpets or a roll of drums. The senators then immediately take their seats, and in a minute the bell sounds and the sitting commences. Two shorthand-writers and two editorial secretaries are employed to report the proceedings; and the shorthand-writers are in official uniform, while the ushers of the House are attired in black, with white cravats, and wear a dress sword. They are always ready to attend to a signal from a senator. A messenger of state, in grand uniform, also attends the sitting, his duty being to accompany the members of the bureau who present any communication to the Government, and the newly-elected senators who attend to take the oath. The ordinary sitting begins with reading the minutes of the previous meeting and the remarks and alterations that have ensued upon them. After this the secretary makes known the excuses of the absent senators for their non-attendance. He then reads the official despatches from the Minister of State, making known the laws voted by the Corps Législatif. Then follow the discussion and vote on the measures brought forward at the previous meeting. The white bulletin means Yes, the blue No; and each senator puts his paper into the urn with his name upon it. The word urn really means what it implies in the Senate, for these vessels are really urns, of classical shape, of black and green bronze, with golden ornaments. When the order is given for voting, the ushers immediately proceed amongst the seats, holding an urn in each hand to receive the billets, which are then carried to the bureau. Votes on petitions are given by show of hands.



THE JAPANESE JUGGLERS AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE: THE LADDER TRICK.



A DEBATE IN THE FRENCH SENATE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 332.

PREFATORY.

YEARS ago—soon after we began to write these articles—we had to impress upon readers one thing never to be forgotten—viz., that by no power of language at our command could we describe, graphically or effectively, a tumultuous scene in the House. No man can describe, so as to bring it well before the mind's eye, a tumultuous scene anywhere. There are not ten men living who can describe an ordinary battle well. We, who have read many descriptions of battles, do not know more than three, at most, who can do it. Carlyle is incomparably the best hand at this work; Kinglake does it reasonably well, but his descriptions are too long; and then, lastly, there is the admirable newspaper correspondent, Mr. W. H. Russell. How often, on behalf of our readers, have we envied him his powers! But to the graphic powers of these notable men we have no pretensions; but such as we have we will stretch to their utmost. In short, we will do our best; and, as the old English saying is, the best can do no more. And now, having finished our preface, we will proceed to our work.

ATTRACTIVE BILL OF FARE.

On Thursday, the 15th, the members assembled early in large numbers; and no wonder, for there was for their repast that night two very attractive dishes—to wit, the Boundary Bill, a bill almost as important as the Reform Bill itself; then there was Gladstone's bill for giving effect to his celebrated resolutions on the Irish Church. At present there are mere resolutions. To give them the effect of law there must be an Act. Between these two grand dishes there were others—Supply, for one; but nobody thought that this, though in the bill of fare, would be really produced. It was said, universally—to drop our figure—that the discussion on the Boundary Bill would last until midnight, and that then we should take Gladstone's bill, leaving Supply to a more convenient season. But matters did not take this course. The Boundary Bill, after a good deal of wrangling discussion, was referred to a Select Committee up stairs, there to be overhauled, sifted, and cleared of non-essential matter. Even when this was done the House went, after the discussion of a few grievances, quietly into Supply; and now we saw rather an unusual sight—to wit, a very respectable attendance of members, albeit it was dinner time, and the House was in Supply, as we shortly put it. Usually on such occasions, at such a time, the attendance is very thin indeed. We have known millions voted to her Majesty by less than forty members; and let not our readers be irate with members for apparently neglecting their duty. What is the use of attending? Well, you may criticise the amount of expenditure; but by no mortal power can anything be knocked off. Twenty years we have known the House, and during all that long time our financial economists have not succeeded in diminishing the expenditure to the amount of so many thousands. And then think of the dull, dreary, senseless, futile talk you have to encounter! It is amazing. Never so bad as we have it now. Joseph Hume, with his sound, accurate knowledge of finance, imparted interest to these discussions, though he had to lament that he could effect but little. His successor, Mr. Williams, was honest and assiduous, but quite unequal to the work he undertook. The joke was, that he was like Smollett because he was a bad successor of Hume. Well, he is gone; and now we have as chief critic of finance, Mr. Alderman Lusk, who potters about trifles, and does not understand even them. Here is a specimen of Aldermanic criticism. On that very evening he objected to granting money to keep up Hampton Court, because the public gets no benefit from this old palace and grounds. The public gets no benefit from Hampton Court! Think of this, ye hundreds and thousands who go down there to see the rooms, with their antique furniture; to wander through the exquisite gardens, and to gaze with wonder, at this time of year, at the chestnut-trees in all their glory. This gentleman would, no doubt, could he have his way, cut down those wondrous trees and sell the timber, because from them the public get no benefit. Was utilitarian philosophy ever carried so far as this before? "There is," said Mr. Cobden, "no more innocent expenditure of money than that upon our public parks." But we wander from our point, which is this: there was an uncommonly strong muster on that Thursday night, and what was the cause? Gladstone's motion was coming on, and, not knowing exactly when it might come on, members in large numbers stopped at the House all night, lest they should risk the opportunity of supporting or of resisting this motion. Some had taken the precaution to dine early, others took a snack in the refreshment-rooms, and those who went home shortened their repast and hurried back as quickly as possible. If, though, it were any less august assembly than the British House of Commons, we should say not before they had wine sufficiently to keep up their spirits and courage. But now to the great event.

GLADSTONE MOVES HIS BILL.

It was midnight, "the witching hour," as it has been called; and certainly, a short time after midnight, as we looked down into the seething excitement below, it seemed to us that some of the members were bewitched. The House was quite full, when the sonorous bells in the neighbouring tower told the great city around that another day was gone. But, though it was "ayont the twal," nobody here thought of bed. Clearly we were not about to go, but "to go it." Usually, at twelve, the Committee of Supply ends its labours; Mr. Dodson leaves the chair, and the House resumes—that is, technically, becomes again a House; and some time after twelve the Opposition began to get impatient, and, at last, Colonel Greville-Nugent, the member for Longford, rose and proposed that the Chairman do report progress—meaning that the Committee should have done with Supply, and that Mr. Speaker should be got into the chair, and the House proceed with the great business ahead. Loud shouts of "Go on!" broke from the Conservative ranks. The Fabian policy of delay was what they meant. "If we can keep in Supply another hour, we can plead that it is too late for such important business as Gladstone's bill." But the gallant Colonel was resolute, and, backed by a formidable phalanx of Liberals, was irresistible, and Mr. Speaker was got into the chair. Two money bills were then swiftly passed amidst infinite buzz, and then silence fell upon the House, for Gladstone rose and moved for leave to bring in his bill. He made no speech, but at once resumed his seat.

MAJOR KNOX JUMPS TO THE FORE TO SMASH GLADSTONE.

And then up jumped, or bounded, Major Stuart Knox, Lord Ranfurly's son, and one of the fiercest Protestant zealots in the House. Him the Irish borough of Dungannon, in the county of Tyrone, sends to Parliament. Some affect the sun and some the shade. The gallant Major, from the position which he has chosen in the House, would seem to like the shade, for he has fixed his seat high up under the shadow of the gallery. Major Knox is, no doubt, a pious man; and, if he had but discretion to guide his pious zeal, and could but alloy "its skipping spirit with some cold drops of modesty," he might do good in the world; but, alas, like all Orangemen, herein he fails. The gallant Major leaps, then, into the arena to have a tilt at Gladstone. He has more than once done this, and always failed; and now he is in the lists once more, and sure as he is a pigmy to a giant, he will have to bite the dust again. He fancies, though, that this time he is absolutely safe; perfectly invulnerable. "Yes," you might imagine him saying to himself, "I have got the great Liberal leader now, and the House and the world shall see how I will pin him down." The case was this: Some blunderer, or knave, or merry fellow, fond of practical jokes—surely the latter—had handed to the gallant Major a printed slip—printed, mind you—containing what appeared to be an extract from one of Gladstone's speeches in favour of the Irish Church. This the gallant Major (who surely must be the most gullible of mortals) took without authentication, put it in his pocket-book, determined, as soon as opportunity should offer, to fire it off right into Gladstone's face; and thus, as he thought, smash the Liberal leader for ever. And no doubt, if the extract had been genuine, the quotation of it would have had some damaging effects; but we should have

thought that anyone with a glimmer of common sense would have tested the authenticity of such a document before using it. This, however, Major Knox, strong in faith, did not do; neither did he consult any competent judge. Had he, now, consulted his leader, that practised judge of style would at once have told him that the extract had not the sterling ring. But so proud was the gallant Major of this precious godsend that he kept it to himself. Perhaps he feared that it might be purloined, and thus he might lose the great honour of smashing Gladstone. How that may have been, we know not; but certainly he kept the precious paper to himself. We say so, because we do not believe that he has a friend who, if consulted, would not have urged him to authenticate the extract before he used it. There cannot be two such egregious simpletons in the world. Well, here he is—and how elated he is!—trembling and flushed with excitement, as he reads this formidable document, which is to smash Gladstone. And, ye heavens! how the Tories did cheer! and what a bitter flavour of spite there was in those cheers! "Ha! ha! we've pinned the fellow now!" We have not given the words of the document. Gladstone himself shall give us them, presently.

GLADSTONE WARDS THE BLOW.

Gladstone, as soon as the Major had launched his bolt, asked bluntly, "From whom are you quoting?" Gallant Major: "From the right hon. gentleman himself." Gladstone: "Where?" Ay, where, gallant Major, where? Surely you know, gallant Major. No more than Adam. After this, solemn Mr. Newdegate interposed with a weighty speech—as weighty as lead; and this gave the combatants breathing time—or, rather, the gallant Major; for Gladstone was not hit, and he knew it. That extract was no child of his. When Mr. Newdegate's funeral bell ceased to toll, Gladstone again repeated the question, "Where?" And thereupon the gallant Major, who, whilst Newdegate was tolling, had been consulting his friends, sending pencilled slips, and receiving pencilled slips in return, rose and made the strange announcement, "I have reason to believe (mark, only reason to believe) the first part was from the right hon. gentleman's speech in 1845, or '35, when he was in office; and the latter part from his book published in 1841, nine years after he entered Parliament, when he could hardly be considered a boy." Ah, gallant Major! you are on the brink of a precipice, if you did but know it. After this the business of the House went on. Gladstone calmly replied to Newdegate; Vance inflicted his dulness upon unlistening ears; Lord Ingestre, just returned to the House, which he is so well calculated to adorn, rose to move that the bill be read by the clerk, and tried to speak, but got confused, and, frightened by the noise he made, sank, to the music of cheers and laughter, back into his seat; and at last, after indescribable confusion and noise for half an hour or so, Mr. Gladstone got permission to bring in his bill. This was the public business in which the House was formally engaged; but, whilst it was getting itself transacted, there was some intensely interesting by-play going on upon the front Opposition bench. Whilst Gladstone was watching his bill his friends near him were overhauling some half dozen volumes of Hansard to discover the speech from which the gallant Major had got his extract. For a time the beating of this jungle of print was apparently fruitless. At last a slip of paper comes from below the gangway; it was read, a volume of Hansard was seized, and now we could see that the extract was found, and we could see also, by the satisfaction and smiles beaming upon the faces of the searchers, that poor gallant Major was about to catch it.

AND THEN SMASHES KNOX.

The ground is clear, and Mr. Gladstone rises. From the solemnity of his look, you would hardly think that he was about to achieve a triumph. You would rather suppose that he was going to make a confession, he looked so intensely grave. He spoke as follows:—

By the aid of a friend near me I have made a discovery respecting the speech from which a passage was read by the hon. and gallant gentleman opposite which he attributed to me. That speech contains this passage:—"I trust that a Church which retains the principles of a Christian Church, and teaches unadulterated the principles of the Church of England, will never be overthrown by the British House of Commons (loud bursts of cheering from the Ministerial benches). It cannot be destroyed except by the vote of a recreant Senate—(cheering from the Ministerial benches)—and an apostate nation" (Renewed cheers on the Ministerial benches). I find, Sir, that that speech was delivered on April 10, 1866.

Here he paused slightly, as if he would give force to the blow which was coming. "But," he continued, "on running up my finger to the beginning of the speech, I discover that it was made by Mr. Whiteside." To describe the explosion of laughter which followed is quite beyond our powers. The laughter was frantic, and all laughed. All party feeling was for the time broken down. Tories, Conservatives, Whigs, and Radicals all joined in the cackling chorus. Grave old men who seldom laugh shook their sides. The Treasury Bench was radiant. Disraeli, so unused to laugh, relaxed into more than smiles; and even our wigged Speaker could not preserve his official gravity. After this the House got into most admired disorder, uncontrollable for a time by the Speaker. At last he rose and sternly asserted his authority; and Gladstone, who had placed himself at the bar, with bill in hand, marched up amidst ringing cheers to the table and delivered it to the clerk.

THE SCOTCH COMPEL THE PREMIER TO RECONSIDER HIS POSITION.

On Monday we had two pitched battles, very short, very sharp, but very important. Cause of war, in the first instance, was this: The first order was, the Committee on the Scotch Reform Bill. Mr. Baxter, of Montrose, moved as an instruction to the Committee, that, instead of adding to the numbers of the House, to give Scotland her full share, they should disfranchise all English boroughs containing less than 5000 people. This was the proposition; and around it, for about four hours, there was a good deal of smart and angry fighting. The House went to a division before dinner; and the Scotch Liberals, marching shoulder to shoulder, as their wont is, with their English allies, beat the Government by 217 votes against 196. After this a vast number of members went to dinner. And for a time, we warrant you, Colonel Taylor and Mr. Glyn had their hands full with pairing their friends. There were no less than 284 gentlemen paired. The second battle was upon the question whether Scotland shall have, in boroughs, a household or a rate-paying suffrage. The Government proposed the latter. Mr. Bouverie, of Kilmarnock, moved that the suffrage should be household; and, after a by no means protracted or angry debate, the Committee divided, and Government was again defeated. Numbers for household suffrage, 118; for rate-paying suffrage, 96. After this division the Lord Advocate rose to go on with the bill; but he had not spoken many words when Disraeli angrily sprang to his feet and stopped all further progress, that her Majesty's Government might "reconsider its position."

THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.—The bill brought in by Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. Russell Gurney, and Mr. J. Stuart Mill, to amend the law with respect to the property of married women provides that every woman shall, notwithstanding her coverture, retain possession of all her real and personal property, whether belonging to her before marriage or acquired afterwards, free from the debts and obligations of her husband and from his control. The earnings of a married woman, derived from any occupation carried on separately from that of her husband, are also to be deemed her personal estate. On the other hand, a husband is not to be liable for the debts of his wife contracted before marriage, and shall not be liable in damages for any wrong committed by her. Upon the death of a wife intestate, her husband is, according to the provisions of this bill, to take the same distributive share in her personal estate as a wife would take in the personal estate of her husband if he died intestate, and, subject thereto, her personal estate is to go as it would have gone if her husband had predeceased her. There is, however, a reservation of the right of a husband to hold his wife's real estate as tenant by courtesy. Questions in dispute between husband and wife as to title to or possession of personal property are to be decided in a summary way by any Chancery Judge, or, at the option of the petitioner and irrespective of the value of the property in dispute, by a County Court Judge. When, however, a husband has been in the habit of receiving his wife's rents and profits he is not to be held liable to account for them afterwards. The existing law relating to the making of settlements before or after marriage is not to be interfered with. It is proposed that the Act, which is not to extend to Scotland, shall come into operation on Jan. 1 next.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE RITUAL COMMISSION.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, in reply to an inquiry of the Earl of Shaftesbury, said it was impossible for the Government to take action on the two reports of the Ritual Commission until the Commissioners had completed their labours.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY remarked that the country was becoming very excited on the question, and would not be much longer trifled with. The Bishop of LONDON stated that the third report would relate to the whole of the services of the Church, and would need careful revision; and for such a work the time at their disposal was very short.

The Marquis of SALISBURY protested against the tone of menace and excitement which characterised Lord Shaftesbury's remarks. If there was one subject more than another that demanded cautious and well-considered treatment it was this.

Lord LYTTLETON also animadverted upon the "habitual tone" of the noble Earl whenever he addressed the House on this subject.

The discussion was terminated by the LORD CHANCELLOR saying that the Government must approach the question with the greatest care, and at the same time with a due regard to the practical utility of legislation upon it.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE.

Mr. Serjeant ARMSTRONG gave notice that on Monday, the 25th inst., on the order for going into Committee of Supply, he should move that, in the opinion of the House, the position of her Majesty's Ministers is opposed to the principle of representative government, subversive of constitutional administration, and incompatible with the character and dignity of Parliament. The notice evoked a slight cheer from a few members in the immediate neighbourhood of the learned Serjeant.

AN APOLOGY.

Colonel S. KNOX, referring to the scene which occurred at the close of the previous night's sitting, explained that the document he then read to the House as an extract from a speech delivered by Mr. Gladstone he had since ascertained was not genuine. The extract had reached him from a quarter in which he put faith; and, deeply regretting what had taken place, he now tendered his apologies to the right hon. gentleman and the House.

Mr. GLADSTONE at once rose and observed that it had never entered his mind that the hon. member had intended to do anything unfair, and still less that he desired to palm upon the House a quotation that he did not believe to be correct.

A ROYAL RESIDENCE IN IRELAND.

Sir C. O'LOUGHLEN called attention to the absence of a permanent Royal residence in Ireland, and moved an address to the Queen, representing that it would conduce to the advantage of the Crown and the good government of Ireland, and tend to allay jealousy and discontent in that country, if her Majesty had a permanent residence there; and that the House would cordially co-operate in any steps she might take to carry out that object.

Mr. DISRAELI reminded the House that the position of Ireland was in no respect worse than that of Scotland a few years ago, and that although, owing to the difficulties which formerly existed in the way of communication between the two countries, Royal visits to Ireland had been few and far between, the principle of Sovereignty had always been represented by the Lord Lieutenant, with reference to which office he was persuaded that any man of ability and fortune who might fill it had it in his power to effect a great deal of good, and was something more than the mere nominee of a Minister. As to the motion, he hoped the hon. Baronet would not press the House to decide upon it.

Mr. GLADSTONE admitted that no other answer could have been expected from the Premier; he only wished, therefore, in assenting to the general tone of the right hon. gentleman's observations, to say that he strongly sympathised with Sir C. O'Loghlin in his desire that by some appropriate means, if they could be found, the personal relations between the Royal family and the Irish portions of her Majesty's dominions should, as an object of policy of no mean importance, be strengthened.

The motion was withdrawn.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

Mr. BOUVERIE then drew attention to the Registration of Voters Act, and the other legal provisions for the registering of voters, and asked what steps the Government contemplated taking to shorten such proceedings, so as to enable Parliament to be dissolved in the autumn.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL explained that the object might be accomplished by publishing the claims and objections on Aug. 10 instead of Aug. 20, by utilising the fifteen days from Sept. 1. to Sept. 15, during which the list of claims and objections now lay open for inspection, and which were really not required, and by increasing the number of revising barristers. Thus, by Oct. 20 the register might be completed, and a general election take place at the end of that month.

SUPPLY.

Lord E. HOWARD having directed attention to the penal clauses of the Lottery Act, the House went into Committee of Supply, and agreed to several votes for the Civil Service.

MONDAY, MAY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH moved that the order for going into Committee on the Education Bill be discharged, on the ground that the state of public affairs and the business before Parliament compelled the Government reluctantly to abandon the measure for the present Session. After some discussion, the motion was agreed to.

On the report of the Railways Regulation Bill a proposal of Earl GREY that the rates of fares and charges should be printed and kept for public use at every station was opposed by the Duke of RICHMOND, who contended that the tables now issued by the companies were quite sufficient, and, upon a division, was negatived by 53 to 29.

The Endowed Schools Bill, the Customs and Income Tax Bill, and the Exchequer Bonds Bill were severally read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BOROUGH BOUNDARIES.

On the motion of Mr. Secretary HARDY, it was agreed that a Select Committee be appointed to consider the boundaries of the following boroughs, as laid down by the Boundary Commissioners, and to report what, if any, alterations should be made therein:—Birkenhead, Birmingham, Bolton-le-Moors, Bristol, Cheltenham, Chester, Gateshead, Gloucester, Greenwich, Hastings, Lambeth, Liverpool, Manchester, Marylebone, Newport (Isle of Wight), Newport (Monmouthshire), Northampton, Nottingham, Oldham, Portsmouth, Preston, Reading, Salisbury, South Shields, Tynemouth, Warwick, Wigan, Wilton, Windsor, Chelsea and Kensington, Darlington, Middlesbrough, Stalybridge. Some discussion took place with regard to the terms of reference, but ultimately they were settled in the following form:—That all petitions presented to the House relative to the said boroughs be referred to the Committee, and that the Committee have power to receive and call for maps, memorials, reports, papers, and records concerning the said boroughs, and to confer with the Boundary Commissioners and those employed under them in their inquiries, and with the members for the boroughs and counties affected; the Committee to sit *die in diem*. A committee of five members was then appointed, consisting of Mr. Walpole, Sir W. Stirling Maxwell, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. A. Bruce, and Mr. K. Hodgson.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

On the order for going into Committee on the Scotch Reform Bill, Mr. BAXTER moved that it be an instruction to the Committee that, instead of adding to the numbers of the House, they have power to disfranchise boroughs in England having, by the Census returns of 1861, less than 5000 inhabitants. If his proposal were adopted its effects would be to disfranchise ten English boroughs, the aggregate number of whose electors was only 2874, eight out of the ten having decreased in population since the year 1831.

Mr. WHITBREAD seconded the motion; to which Sir R. KNIGHTLEY proposed as an amendment, and was seconded by Sir W. STIRLING-MAXWELL, an instruction to the Committee to take one seat from boroughs in England now returning two members, and having by the Census returns of 1861 less than 12,000 inhabitants.

After some discussion, in the course of which Mr. Childers spoke in support of the instruction moved by Mr. Baxter, and Mr. Cochrane and Lord E. Howard against it.

Mr. DISRAELI said that, although he preferred increasing the number of the House, yet, as the question at issue was between the proposal of Mr. Baxter on the one hand, and that of Sir R. Knightley on the other, as the principle of the former had been twice negatived by the House and the latter twice affirmed, he should vote for the amendment.

Mr. GLADSTONE objected to the amendment that it tended to a general derangement of the balance of representation by taking strength from points which were already too weak, whilst the original motion commended itself to his approval, because it tended to a fair diffusion of political power, and would give strength and security to the system of popular representation.

On the House dividing, the amendment was negatived by 217 to 196, or a majority of 21; and Mr. Baxter's instruction was agreed to.

Mr. M'LAREN moved a resolution in favour of giving fifteen additional members to Scotland, which led to some discussion, but was eventually withdrawn; and a motion of Mr. BRADEN, increasing the number of Irish seats, and establishing electoral districts throughout the United Kingdom, was ruled by the SPEAKER to be not germane to a Scotch Reform Bill, and therefore out of order.

The House then went into Committee, and proceeded with the consideration of the clauses of the bill. On clause 3, "Occupation Franchise for Voters in Burghs," Mr. BOUVERIE moved to omit the words making personal payment of rates a necessary incident of the qualification. Discussion

followed, the amendment being opposed by the LORD ADVOCATE; and, on the Committee dividing, the words were struck out by 118 to 96, or a majority against the rating qualification of 22.

Mr. BOUVIERIE having moved to substitute other words creating a lodger and joint occupancy franchise.

Mr. DISRAELI interposed by observing that the Government had entertained every desire to bring to a happy conclusion the consideration of this measure; but he regretted to find that the results, so far, had not been of that character. Upon the whole, after the decision just arrived at, he thought it best to move that the Chairman should report progress, in order to enable Ministers to consider what course they should take.

After some discussion, progress was reported, and the resumption of Committee fixed for Monday next.

TUESDAY, MAY 19. HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of LICHFIELD, on the suggestion of Lord Malmesbury, withdrew the Friendly Societies Bill, on the understanding that a Commission should be appointed to inquire into the objects contemplated by the measure.

The Conscription of Churchyards Act (1867) Amendment Bill was read the second time. The Endowed Schools Bill passed through Committee; and the Customs and Income Tax Bill and the Exchequer Bonds (£1,600,000) Bill were read the third time and passed. Other bills were also forwarded a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

Mr. GLADSTONE having asked what course the Government proposed to take on the second reading of the Established Church (Ireland) Bill, which stood for Friday next.

Mr. DISRAELI stated, amidst vehement cheering, that the Government looked on the bill as the first step towards the disestablishment of the Church, and intended to give it the greatest opposition they could.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Mr. DISRAELI, replying to an inquiry of Mr. Dalglish, stated that he would on Thursday announce the course which Government proposed to take with reference to the Scotch Reform Bill.

THE PURCHASE SYSTEM IN THE ARMY.

Mr. TREVELYAN propounded his scheme for reforming the system of sale and purchase of commissions in the Army, and the main features of which he combined in a series of seven resolutions, to the effect:—(1) That the purchase and sale of military commissions should be discontinued after a date to be fixed for the purpose; that from that date every officer on full pay should be credited with the then value of his commissions, taking into consideration the regulation and the extra regulation prices; that the sum so credited should be paid by the Government to any officer retiring from the service under circumstances which would previously have enabled him to sell his commission; that a portion of the sum so credited should be paid to any officer promoted to be effective Major-General; that regimental promotion up to the rank of Captain should be made according to a combined system of seniority and selection, and above that rank by selection; that suitable conditions of retirement should be provided at the expense of the State for officers of every rank; and that a fixed proportion of the vacant commissions in each regiment should be filled by the promotion of qualified non-commissioned officers.

The motion having been seconded by Mr. Melly, Captain VIVIAN, who objected to Mr. Trevelyan's plan on the ground of its sweeping character, met the proposal with a scheme of his own, which (1) abolished purchase above the rank of Captain in the cavalry and infantry of the line; (2) reduced the number of regimental commissioned ranks to three—viz., Lieutenant-Colonel, Captain, and Lieutenant; (3) instituted a course of practical professional training as a necessary preliminary to the acquisition of a commission in the cavalry, guards, or line; and pledging the House to make good such sums as might be required to give just compensation upon retirement to existing officers who, in respect either to the regulation value of their commissions, or of sums paid in accordance with regimental usage, might be liable to pecuniary injury by the adoption of this arrangement. He contended that, if his scheme were carried into effect, all ground of complaint against the operation of the purchase system would be greatly diminished, and the efficiency of the service improved.

After a long and interesting debate, the motion was withdrawn.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House was occupied the greater part of the afternoon with the discussion of the Libel Bill. Sir C. O'Loughlin appealed to Mr. Newdegate to withdraw an amendment, of which he had given notice, to prevent the bill going into Committee. He assured the hon. gentleman that there was nothing in the slightest degree connected with religion in the bill, and therefore it was not a measure which the hon. gentleman should take extraordinary measures to defeat. This allusion called forth a laugh, though no one supposed that Mr. Newdegate's opposition was founded upon religious grounds; but on that point the House was enlightened to some extent by Sir C. O'Loughlin calling attention to a circular containing a warning against the measure, because, as asserted, it was proposed by the members professing Popery in the House to bribe the press, thus serving the purposes of the Court of Rome. The assurance of Sir C. O'Loughlin that the bill was not introduced with any such sinister object produced no effect on Mr. Newdegate, who declared the principle of the bill to be dangerous. He declared that it should be called "a bill for the propagation of slander and the legalisation of apologies." In conclusion, he moved that the bill be committed that day six months.

After a long discussion, the House went into Committee on the bill by a majority of 108 votes to 38. Clause 1 up to clause 3 were considered, and then progress was reported.

The House put several other measures forward a stage.

THURSDAY, MAY 21. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. DISRAELI, after stating that the Government, for the sake of expediting the passage of the Scotch Reform Bill, were willing to accept Mr. Baxter's motion disfranchising the ten smallest English boroughs, referred to Mr. Bouvierie's motion as to rating, and said that rested on different grounds. The decision came to on Monday night was a surprise, and could not be accepted. He continued:—"I do not conceal from the House that the opinion of the Government upon this motion of the hon. member for Kilmarnock is such that it would have the most serious consequences on their conduct as regards their responsibility in carrying out this bill, because we considered it in itself highly detrimental and disadvantageous to Scotland, and that in its ultimate consequence it would injuriously affect the United Kingdom. And therefore I do hope, from the anxious desire which pervades both sides of the House to convey the Scotch Reform Bill to a satisfactory conclusion, I may induce the Committee to reconsider the determination at which they have arrived. So, with a larger attendance and a more complete discussion, we may all of us at least clearly understand the point at which we desire to arrive, and that we may contemplate all the consequences of the issue at stake; so that, if we do decide to uphold the decision of Monday night, at least it may not be said of us by those whom we represent that we arrived at that conclusion in a precipitate and careless spirit. Now, Sir, with these views it is my wish on Monday to propose certain words in Committee which would obviate the serious inconvenience and injury which we think must accrue if we do not take some remedial course of that kind. I shall not propose to retain the two clauses struck out by the Committee, but I shall propose to add words, which will be placed on the table in the course of the evening, to the effect that no elector in a Scotch borough shall be entitled to exercise the suffrage who is not rated to the poor and who has not paid his rates."

Mr. BRIGHT insisted that the question should be left in the hands of the Scotch members, who were best able to decide what would suit their country.

Mr. BOUVIERIE denied that the vote of Monday was hasty. The matter had been carefully considered by the Scotch members, thirty-five out of forty of whom were unanimous on the point involved.

Mr. G. HARDY warmly vindicated the policy of the Government, and challenged the Opposition to test the opinion of the House upon the conduct of her Majesty's Ministers by a direct motion of want of confidence. He admitted that their position was a difficult and somewhat painful one, but a strong sense of duty towards that House and the country compelled them to persevere in the course which they had taken.

Several other members having addressed the House, the subject dropped.

ELECTION PETITIONS AND CORRUPT PRACTICES BILL.

The House went into Committee on this bill, the discussion of which mainly occupied the remainder of the night.

MR. ADDERLEY, as Under Secretary for the Colonies, has submitted a bill to Parliament "to relieve the Consolidated Fund from the charge of future Bishops, Archdeacons, ministers, and other persons in the West Indies"—in other words, to provide for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Colonial Church in the West Indies. The Bishopric of Barbadoes is about to become vacant—if, indeed, it is not vacant at the present time; and, if the Government bill passes, the Bishopric will be suppressed.

A VOLCANIC ERUPTION, followed by about 2000 shocks of earthquake and by violent tidal waves, occurred in Hawaii, one of the Sandwich Islands, in the beginning of April. Whole villages were destroyed, and about one hundred persons killed.

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SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1868.

THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK.

WE have this week had another "Ministerial crisis," a phenomenon to which the British public are becoming much better accustomed than reconciled. The "difficulty" on this occasion arose in consequence of Ministers being twice defeated on Monday night; first, on Mr. Baxter's motion for obtaining additional members for Scotland by disfranchising small and decaying English boroughs; and, secondly, on the proposition of Mr. Bouvierie, to omit the ratepaying clause from the Scotch Reform Bill. These motions, which were carried against Government, struck at two of Mr. Disraeli's "vital principles"—namely, that no existing centre of representation should be wholly disfranchised, and that the enjoyment of the suffrage should be based on the personal payment of rates. Mr. Baxter knocked the life out of the first of these so-called "vital" principles, and Mr. Bouvierie tripped up the second, whereat the Premier became wroth, and demanded time to enable the Government to "reconsider their position."

The result of their deliberations will, we suppose, have been made known ere these lines come before the eyes of our readers; though there is no making sure of anything where Mr. Disraeli is concerned. But, to our mind, it seems very immaterial what course Ministers may follow; unless, indeed, they should take heart of grace and resign—but that, we suspect, will be about the last thing they will think of doing. Whether they dissolve Parliament, accept the decision of the House of Commons and give effect to its will, drop the Scotch bill altogether, or get out of the difficulty under cover of Mr. Baxter's proposal to exclude from the franchise all persons excused from payment of rates on the score of poverty, the fact will still remain that the affairs of the country have been brought to a deadlock and have suffered grievous detriment in consequence of Ministers persisting in remaining in office and attempting to conduct the public business while in a hopeless minority in the popular—the controlling—branch of the Legislature. That is a state of things as inconvenient as it is unconstitutional, and which must continue to work mischief, to produce "deadlocks" and Ministerial crises, so long as it is continued or permitted. It is true that the circumstances of the time are peculiar, and that Mr. Disraeli's position is surrounded with difficulties; but the circumstances are very much of his own creating, and the difficulties are perpetuated entirely by himself. There is a ready path out of the toils open to him, if he chooses to follow it. He can at once get rid of all perplexity and deliver himself from the many defeats and humiliations he has to endure, by quitting a position he had no right to assume, and ought not to continue to occupy, while knowing that he did not, and does not, possess the confidence either of the House of Commons or of the country. A Ministry on sufferance—attempting to govern with a minority, and, consequently, either neglecting the public business or servilely obeying the behests of their opponents—is in a position neither of dignity nor usefulness; and, if Mr. Disraeli and his colleagues had any respect for their political reputation, they would not endure it for an hour.

With their reputation, however, we need not concern ourselves. That, or what is left of it, is in their own keeping, and so far they may be allowed to do what they like with their own. But the interests of the country and the dignity and usefulness of Parliament suffer as well. Nay, even the reverence due to the Crown has been seriously jeopardised by the conduct of the present Cabinet. The attempt has unquestionably been made, by dragging her Majesty into the political arena, to take shelter behind the Throne from the storm evoked by unconstitutional acts. A rule of terror has been attempted, and the Queen's name has been used to justify the deed. Ever since Mr. Disraeli acceded to power he has been in the constant habit of insinuating, if not of openly uttering, threats of dissolution whenever the House of Commons has thwarted him in his policy. He has endeavoured to subvert the freedom of the people's representatives; Parliament, for the last two years, has been only permitted to continue in existence during good behaviour; it has been living with a threat of penal dissolution hanging over its head if it dared to oppose itself to the Minister's will. And we fear that a good deal of vacillation and backsliding from principle has resulted. The dread of having to go through the ordeal of a contested election has, we suspect, made cowards of not a few feeble-minded, weak-kneed honourable gentlemen; and principles have been sacrificed to convenience and personal considerations, whereby the dignity of Parliament has been lowered and the self-respect of its members destroyed.

The Minister's threats, however, are now ceasing to have power; the terror of dissolution is losing its sting. The

present Parliament can only have a short time to live at any rate, and members are beginning to feel that, so far as their representative existence is concerned,

Come it slow, or come it fast,
It is but death that comes at last,

and so Mr. Disraeli's menaces are comparatively unheeded. Besides, if the cards be played wisely, the Ministers may be made to feel that they have more reason to be on good behaviour with the House than the House with the Ministers. The supplies are not yet all voted, and the Appropriation Bill is not yet passed. Till that is done, Government cannot dispense with Parliament; and it will be Parliament's own fault if it does not make use of its power to enforce reasonable conditions. Threats on the one side may fairly be met by resistance on the other; and, as we know who holds the strongest position, it is easy to guess to whom victory would fall. Let the House of Commons retain its hold upon the purse-strings—let it take care not to throw away that card—and the game is its own. If the House of Commons be true to itself and to the country, it can, by exercising its constitutional right of refusing further supplies, bid defiance to the Premier's threats. A dissolution now would not add to Mr. Disraeli's strength; and no one knows this better than the right hon. gentleman. But it would involve the country in the turmoil, riot, passion, and expense of a general election at a most inopportune season of the year; and it would serve no purpose whatever, with another contest impending next spring, save to gratify the revenge and spite of Ministers, whose own supporters would suffer in common with their opponents. Has the House of Commons the courage to boldly "take the bull by the horns," and, by declining to complete the money votes, compel the Prime Minister to listen to reason, and so rid itself at once of his domination?

THE LATE FETES AT ORLEANS.

ON Sunday, July 29, 1849, Napoleon III., when President of the Republic, visited Orleans, accompanied by a brilliant staff, but till the 10th inst. he has not again been there. Since the plebiscite of 1852 placed him on the Imperial throne he has visited nearly every important city in France except Orleans. He has, nevertheless, been a frequent visitor incognito to his experimental farm of La Motte Beuvron, in the neighbourhood, and has likewise in his journeys to and from Vichy repeatedly stopped at Les Aubrais, a railway junction two miles from the town. This apparent neglect of the famous historical city has naturally excited remark and speculation. Why, it was asked, has the city of Joan of Arc, the city most memorable as a bulwark of French nationality 400 years ago, been so long unvisited? The occasion of the second Septennial Regional Agricultural Show, and of the anniversary of the deliverance of the city by La Pucelle, was therefore, under all circumstances, a fitting occasion to do away with the surmise of indifference. The result has proved to all concerned—to the Imperial visitors and the visited—a brilliant and complete success. The weather was splendid. In the early morning there was a little rain, but not more than enough to cool the air and lay the dust. The Emperor and Empress looked in excellent health, and were evidently exceedingly gratified at the cordiality of their reception.

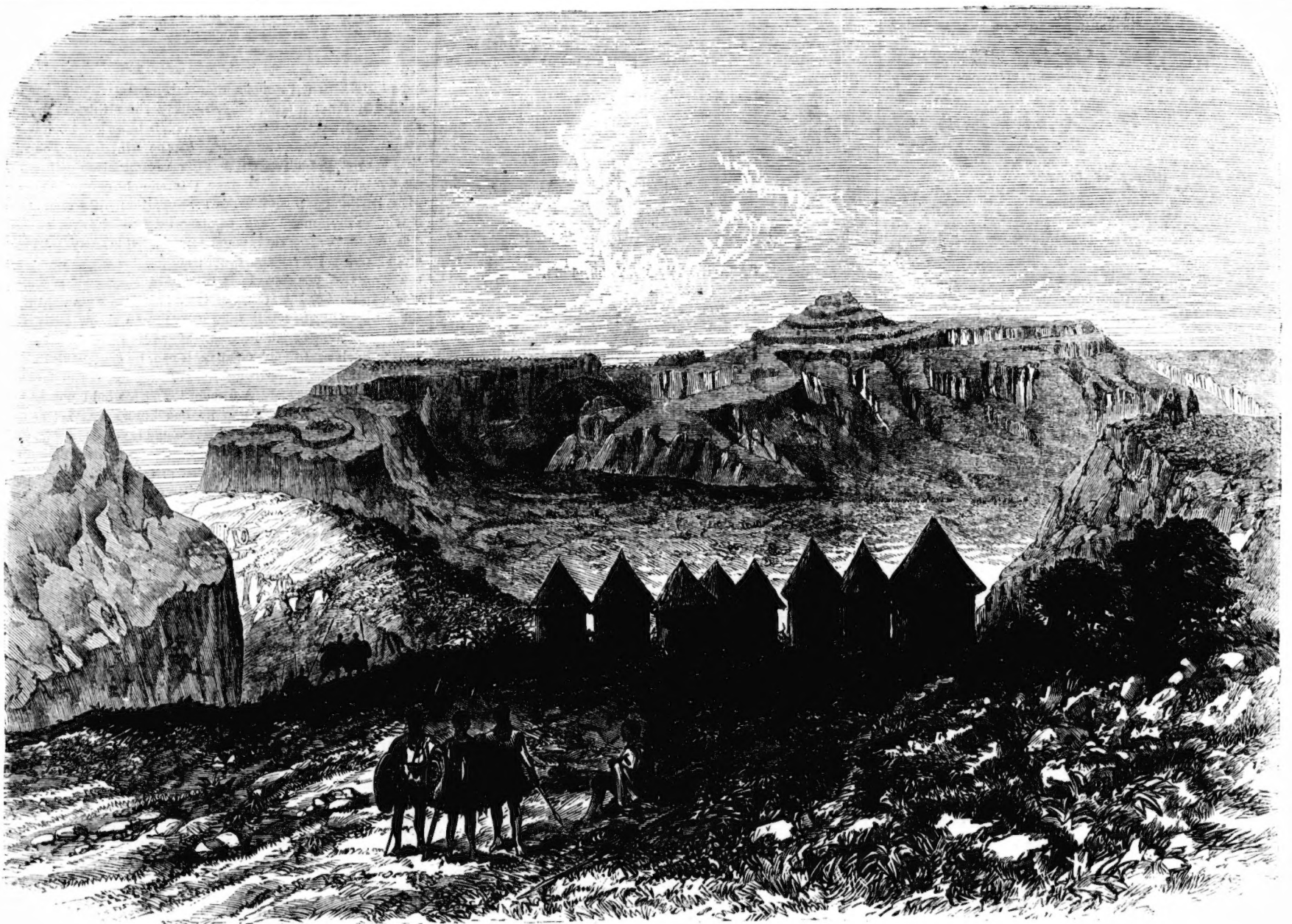
Their Majesties were, on their arrival at the railway station, received by M. Vignat, the Mayor of the city, and M. Dureau, the Prefect of the department of the Loiret, attended respectively by an official staff. From the station to the cathedral the cortège proceeded by the boulevards, the Rue Bannier, Place Martroy, Rue Royale, and Rue Jeanne d'Arc. At the entrance to the Rue Bannier from the boulevard it passed under a triumphal arch. The Place Martroy, which in its ordinary state is a spacious paved square, was for the occasion transformed into a garden adorned with green turf and exquisite flowers. The fountains, the banners, and the decorated equestrian statue of Jeanne d'Arc gave a striking and very animated aspect to this improvised garden. The whole line of streets through which the procession passed was tastefully and profusely decorated with flags and flowers. Every window and balcony and every inch of standing room on the streets were literally crammed with people. The wonder still remains where were stowed away the thousands who from daybreak came streaming into the town in one ceaseless tide.

Their Majesties alighted at the grand entrance to the cathedral, where they were received by the Bishop in his full episcopal dress and ornaments. After a few words of greeting on each side, their Majesties entered the cathedral and slowly walked up the great nave to the sanctuary, where they knelt at a throne prepared for them. Perhaps there was no part of the proceedings of the day which produced so impressive an effect on the spectators as the walk of the Emperor and Empress from the threshold of the cathedral to the steps of the altar. The lofty arches echoed and re-echoed the acclamations of the people; cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" and "Vive l'Impératrice!" at times drowned the chant. The scene was profoundly impressive; it carried one back to the Middle Ages, when it was more the fashion than it is now to receive Sovereigns in churches with the mingled jubilee of psalm and popular acclaim. After the appointed psalms had been duly sung, the Bishop intoned the "Te Deum," chanted the prescribed prayers, and brought the short service to a close by pronouncing the benediction. The service performed was that appointed to be used when a Sovereign makes a state visit to a cathedral in his dominions.

From the cathedral the cortège retraced its steps to the top of the Rue Bannier, where the Emperor and Empress, attended by their suite and the Prefect of the Loiret, entered on foot the agricultural show. After some time spent in examining the animals, machinery, &c., they entered a reserved space, where some hundreds of persons had been invited to receive their Majesties and witness the distribution of agricultural prizes and decorations of the Legion of Honour. This took place in the open air, at the entrance of a beautiful tent. The Emperor and Empress walked slowly among the invited ladies and gentlemen, and were presented by the Prefect to many of this privileged company. On the steps leading to the tent and within the tent both the Emperor and Empress conversed a great deal with the Bishop, the Prefect, the Mayor, the Prefect's lady, the Mayoress, and others. Their Majesties seemed thoroughly pleased, and well they might, for they received (as in the cathedral and at all points) a splendid reception, and, more gratifying still, a kind and cordial welcome.

During the fêtes General Fleury presented to the Emperor a young officer, a descendant of the brother of Jeanne d'Arc. It is computed that there are at least seven persons in France who are related to the same notable personage—Mme. Albertine Gauthier d'Arc, widow of the late Edouard de Julienne, formerly advocate at Aix, and their three children, M. Edgard de Julienne d'Arc, Lieutenant in the 9th Regiment of the Line (he who, according to the condescending compliment of the Empress, "well supports an illustrious name"); Mme. Lanery d'Arc, and Mme. Bouchet Rivière d'Arc, born of Julienne; then MM. Charles Renaudeau d'Arc, engineer; Ernest Renaudeau d'Arc, under superintendent on the Northern Railway, and the widow of M. Edouard Renaudeau d'Arc, advocate and judge at Rouen.

POTASH is now being obtained in large quantities from the raw fleeces of Merino sheep, of which it forms a third in weight, and may be extracted by immersion in cold water.



VIEW OF MAGDALA, ABYSSINIA.—SEE PAGE 323.



A BIT OF THE PICTURESQUE: WILL FERN'S COTTAGE.—SEE PAGE 324.



THE LATE FEIES AT ORLEANS: THE JOAN OF ARC PROCESSION PASSING THE PLACE MARTROY.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY left London on Monday evening for Scotland. She was accompanied by Princesses Louise and Beatrice and other of the junior members of the Royal family. The Queen arrived at Balmoral shortly after two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has sent a sum of 2000 florins to the committee at Trieste engaged in collecting subscriptions for a monument to the Emperor Maximilian. The Empress Charlotte has transmitted 1000 fl.; the Archduke Francis Charles, 1500 fl.; the Archduchess Sophia and the Archduke Charles Louis, 1000 fl. each; and the Archduke Louis Victor, 500 fl.

THE EX-KING OF HANOVER is engaged in correcting the proof-sheets of his "Lieder," which will soon be published.

THE DUKE OF LEUCHTENBURG has bought the famous château of Biberich from the Duke of Nassau. The young Prince insists upon marrying a French actress, and in consequence prefers to expatriate himself.

PRINCE NAPOLEON is going to Constantinople, and will pass through Austria and Hungary; and, before descending the Danube, will touch on the borders of Poland.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ROBERT NAPIER is to be presented with the freedom of the city of London and a sword of the value of 200 guineas.

SIR BENJAMIN LEE GUINNESS, M.P., died on Tuesday night at his residence, Norfolk-street, Park-lane. Sir Benjamin Guinness was in his seventy-first year.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM has issued a despatch to the Governor of Natal giving instructions that any official taking part or aiding in the consecration of a Bishop in opposition to Dr. Colenso shall be immediately suspended.

THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS has voted £1,000,000 for fortifications.

MAJOR-GENERAL C. H. DOYLE has been appointed to the Colonelcy of the 70th Foot, vacant by the death of General Sir G. W. Paty.

THE FUNERAL OF CARDINAL ANDREA, who died suddenly a few days ago, took place on Tuesday at Rome. The Pope attended in person, and took part in the service. He pronounced the benediction over the body of the late Cardinal. A large crowd assembled to witness the ceremony.

THE ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE NEWSPAPER PRESS FUND is fixed for June 6, under the presidency of the Duke of Cambridge.

CAPTAIN HENRY F. McKILLOP, R.N., has been selected by the Viceroy of Egypt to do that for his Highness's navy which Hobart Pacha has been deputed to do to the Turkish—viz., to reorganise it.

MUNCHES HOUSE, Kirkcudbrightshire, the property of W. H. Maxwell, Esq., M.P., was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm on Monday; got on fire in several places, and was totally destroyed.

MR. BRIGHT is announced to be present at the annual meeting of the Welsh Reform Association, in Liverpool, in Whit week.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT (says the *Owl*) will in no case resign; but, on the probable contingency of their being beaten on the Suspensory Bill, they will at once proceed to a dissolution.

THE CHARGE AGAINST MR. EYRE for his conduct during the unhappy events in Jamaica was completed, on Wednesday, at Bow-street, by the commitment of the accused for trial. Mr. Eyre, on being called upon for his defence, complained of the persecution to which he had been subjected for doing his duty. He expressed the fullest confidence in his acquittal by public opinion from all blame.

M. JULES SIMON, the philosophical writer, has been elected President of the French Société des Gens de Lettres by 103 votes.

A MEETING of the members of the Edinburgh University who supported the election of Lord Brougham as Chancellor of the University was held in Edinburgh on Monday—Sir J. Simpson in the chair. It was unanimously resolved to propose Mr. Gladstone, M.P., as Lord Brougham's successor.

THE TOMB OF ABELARD AND HELOISE, erected in 1817, in the cemetery of Père-le-Chaise, is about to be repaired.

BARRETT has been granted a further respite of a week from last Tuesday, in order to enable the authorities to complete the inquiry into his case.

THE PORT OF AMAPOLA, in Honduras, has been declared free to all traders for twenty years to come, and a Swiss colony is to be established there.

"COLONEL NAGLE," it is stated, left Ireland with a conviction that the design of the American Fenians was utterly hopeless. He is said, also, to have acknowledged that the Americans have been altogether deceived as to the state of Ireland.

LADY STUART, widow of Sir James Stuart, has left £20,000 to be divided amongst the principal charities and religious societies of Edinburgh.

REAR-ADMIRAL THE HON. W. BOURCHIER DEVEREUX died on the 15th inst. He was the eldest surviving son of Henry Fleming, fourteenth Viscount Hereford, by his wife, Frances Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Sir George Cornwallis, Bart. He was born Nov. 3, 1810, and obtained the rank of Captain Dec. 12, 1845; and Rear-Admiral (on reserved half pay) Dec. 3, 1863.

AN ASTROLOGER has petitioned the House of Commons to repeal the old law by which all who "practice astrology" are liable to be taken up as vagrants.

A BRONZE ROMAN COIN of the age of Philip the younger (A.D. 249) has been dug up at Carisbrook, in the Isle of Wight.

TWO LARGE DISTILLERIES near the town of Stettin have been destroyed by fire. A million and a half quarts of spirits were consumed and eight buildings burnt to the ground.

AN AGITATION is in active progress amongst the miners of Lanarkshire and Dumfriesshire for an increase of 1s. per day. A strike is threatened unless the demand is complied with on the part of the masters.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS have at length made arrangements for the paving of the portion of the Thames Embankment between Westminster Bridge and the Temple, adapted for foot passengers; and the promenade, it is thought, will be thrown open to the public in about a month from the present time.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW IN WINDSOR GREAT PARK ON WHIT MONDAY, at which many of the London and other corps had signified their intention of being present, has been postponed until after her Majesty's return from Scotland. A review will take place, some time in June, in the Great Park, when her Majesty, with several members of the Royal family, will be present.

AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE, on Friday week, soon after the state ball had commenced, the gas used in the illumination of one of the large windows at the north-east corner set fire to the window-frame, and splintered the glass into countless pieces; but, fortunately, prompt measures prevented any greater damage being done.

THE OLD MANUFACTORY OF AUBUSSON CARPETS, so celebrated for the richness of their texture and for exquisite beauty of design and colouring, has just been sold by auction for 365,000fr. It belonged to the Société Sallandrouze de la Mornais.

THE FEVER at the MAURITIUS continues. It prevails more particularly at Port Louis; but it exists elsewhere in the island. The mortality among the troops is very small. Captain Joyce, of the Royal Artillery, who died there recently, was one of the best-read men in the British Army.

GENERAL HUSSON, an old French officer of the days of the First Napoleon, has just died. The Provisional Government of 1848 put the General *en retraite*; but in January, 1852, Napoleon III. made him a Senator, and he remained in the Senate until his death. Born in 1786, General Husson had attained, at the period of his decease, the ripe age of eighty-two years.

A TREATY OF AMITY AND COMMERCE between the King of Sweden and Norway and the Supreme King of Siam was signed on Monday at the Swedish Legation by their respective Plenipotentiaries, Baron Hochschild and Sir John Bowring.

THE NEGOTIATION OF THE GOVERNMENT with the Roman Catholic Prelates in relation to a charter for the Catholic University has been broken off. There is "absolute disagreement on some of the principal points involved in the discussion."

A PARROT, which attracted much notice at the Ornithological Society's show at Newcastle and Sunderland last year, died a few days ago. The bird had reached the extraordinary age of seventy-five years.

FOUR OF THE FIVE MEN arrested in the county of Westmeath for the murder of Mr. Featherstonehaugh have been discharged, no evidence having been found against them after the most searching investigation. The large reward offered for the discovery of the assassin seems likely to fail of its design.

STEPHEN JOSEPH MEANY has been giving an account, at New York, of his imprisonment in England, and, of course, spoke of the degradation to which he and other Fenian prisoners had been subjected. Mr. Meany did not inform his hearers that he had had a little prison experience previously, and not for a political offence.

CAPTAIN MONCRIEFF's new barbette elevating gun-carriage was officially tried, on Tuesday, at Woolwich, with perfect success. Nine rounds were fired, with 14lb. and 22lb. of powder and 116-lb. shot, from the 7-inch rifled gun, each recoil bringing the gun down into safe position below the parapet for reloading—that being the result intended to be attained by the simple and effective appliances of the invention.

A CASE will shortly come before the Court of Chancery, in which the plaintiff is a shoemaker, but, nevertheless, the representative of one of the oldest and formerly one of the noblest houses in Lancashire. He is the son of a dyer, the grandson of a tailor, the great-grandson of a weaver, and the great-great-grandson of a tailor, whose father and grandfather were gentlemen, and great-grandfather and all other lineal ancestors esquires, knights, and lords in the land up to the reign of King John.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

A GOOD deal of speculation and conjecture have been indulged in this week about the departure of the Queen for Scotland while her Ministers were in difficulties and have been passing through another of those "crises" which are rapidly becoming chronic with them. It is remarked that her Majesty has gone North this year somewhat earlier than usual; and, as it is not usual for the Sovereign to go so far away from the capital, and into a region of communication with which is difficult and tedious, at a time when political troubles are impending, it is asked on all hands, what does it mean? Has the Queen gone away in order to be personally free of the mess? or has she made arrangements with the Premier as to what shall be done in certain probable contingencies—that is, in the event of further defeat? And if so, what are those arrangements? Her Majesty could not, of course, be aware before her departure of the double defeat of Ministers on Monday night; but then such a contingency was clearly on the cards; the possible course of events might have been foreseen, and her Majesty ought to have been informed thereof. Was this done? and, if done, what decision did the Queen come to on the subject? Has she authorised Mr. Disraeli to dissolve Parliament immediately? Has she told him that, if again beaten, he must resign? Or has she counselled submission to Parliament and acceptance of its decisions? In ordinary circumstances such speculations would be inadmissible, because personal responsibility ought in no event to be thrown upon the Queen. But then we are not in ordinary circumstances, and Government is not composed of men who act upon ordinarily accepted rules. Mr. Disraeli has once already shifted the responsibility of decision from his own shoulders to those of her Majesty; may he not have done so a second time? Is he now armed with plenary powers? Has he secured a *carte blanche* to do as he thinks fit? Or has a distinct and definite course been marked out for him? And what is that course? These questions have been eagerly canvassed during the week; conjecture has run wild; but, of course, nobody not in the secrets of the Cabinet knows anything. Neither do I. We must wait for revelations. Perhaps the oracle will speak plainly to-night (I am writing on Thursday); perhaps its utterances will be as ambiguous as has been the case on more than one occasion since the great "Caucasian mystery" became the medium of communication. The impression gains ground, however, that the vote on Mr. Bouvier's amendment will be treated as a surprise, and the House will be asked to consider its decision. In the event of that move failing, then, it is supposed, Mr. Disraeli will bend to circumstances, accept the decision against his "vital principle" of personal rating so far as Scotland is concerned, and give effect to the will of the House. A means of escape from the dilemma may perhaps be found in Mr. Baxter's proposal to exclude from the franchise such persons as may be excused from the payment of poor rates on the ground of poverty. The deliverance comes from an opponent, to be sure; but what of that? Mr. Disraeli is pretty well accustomed to adopting other people's intellectual bantlings.

But, after all, why should Mr. Bouvier's proposition, with or without Mr. Baxter's qualification, not be accepted? The Premier has already of necessity abandoned personal rating as respects lodgers in England; it has not heretofore been a condition of voting in Scotland, and considerable difficulty will arise in working it in that country. Much diversity prevails there in the system of levying poor rates, which is done in accordance with one of three modes: first, on rental; second, on "means and substance"—that is, income; and, third, on a combination of the two. Now, as some parishes adopt one method, some another, there is no uniform rule; and as, moreover, large allowances are made when the rates are assessed on income, and as these allowances vary in different parishes, it will follow that precisely the same class of men will be admitted to the suffrage in one place and excluded in another. When the poor rate is levied upon "means and substance," no one is taxed, nominally, unless his income exceeds £30 a year; but, practically, the exemption goes much higher, and it may be taken as certain that, on an average, no man, under that mode, pays poor rate who earns less than £1 a week. And as wages are generally considerably lower in Scotland than in England, the application of this test will probably disfranchise the entire working-class population of some boroughs; and this grievance would be aggravated by the fact that their immediate neighbours, even in the same group of boroughs, would be in the enjoyment of the suffrage. Take an instance. St. Andrew's and Cupar-in-Fife both belong to the same group. Some years ago—and the same state of things may obtain still—the poor rate in St. Andrew's was levied on rental, while in Cupar it was raised on means and substance. In the former all householders paid the rate, unless specially exempted on the ground of poverty; in the latter those only were liable whose incomes at all events exceeded £40 a year. From which it follows that while in St. Andrew's practically all householders would be voters, in Cupar comparatively few working men would enjoy the privilege. Would such a state of things be just, or could it possibly be permanent? What, then, is the use of insisting upon the personal-payment-of-rates test in Scotland, merely because it has been adopted in England, when the cases of the two countries are by no means parallel?

As self-help is always the most wholesome thing for those in difficulties, it is gratifying when one sees people inclined to depend upon their own efforts rather than upon eleemosynary aid from others. Accordingly, I rejoice to hear of the formation of "The Gentlemen's Self-help Institution." The new society has its head offices at 20, Bessborough-gardens, Belgravia, is conducted under the superintendence of Mrs. Una Howard and a committee of ladies, and has for treasurer Marquis Townshend. The object which the promoters of this institution have in view is to place within the reach of cultivated and educated women, who may have been reduced from easy circumstances to narrow means, an opportunity of turning to account their capabilities, natural or acquired. There are, unhappily, numerous cases in which ladies—widows or daughters of clergymen, officers, and professional men, gently and carefully reared—suddenly find themselves, by the death of their natural protectors, reduced to destitution. To no other class can such a condition be more terrible; none can, from previous circumstances, be generally more helpless; and, at the same time, none can shrink more sensitively from the slights and miseries that ever attend poverty and dependence. It is in the hope of placing means of "self-help" within reach of this class that this institution has been established. It has been proposed to open a room for the gratuitous reception and sale of articles produced by the skill and industry of persons in the position referred to, and likewise, if required, to furnish gratuitous tuition in such branches of art as are most likely to serve a general and increasing demand. It may be mentioned that several ladies of good position in society have already taken lessons in colouring photographs, and are earning, in consequence, a comfortable livelihood. Already premises have been fitted up to serve as a bazaar at the above address, and efficient instructors will be selected to teach the various branches of art, &c., deemed advisable to aid ladies in earning a livelihood. A free register for governesses, companions, &c., will be kept; and other advantages are offered which may be accepted without wounding the most delicate sensibilities or incurring the slightest humiliation. I wish "The Gentlemen's Self-help Institution" every success its promoters can desire.

Advertising having long been reduced to an art, art is now being called to the aid of advertising. One tradesman has recently hit upon the notable device of sending his photograph to his customers, in order that they may be assured that he is the real "Simon Pure." A device less tainted with vanity, and therefore in better taste, is the issue of neatly got-up almanacks, illustrated books descriptive of certain localities and trades, &c. The nearest thing of this kind that I have seen is a book lately issued by James Spence and Company, of St. Paul's-churchyard. It is, of course, an advertisement; but it is a handsome advertisement, and is, moreover, made interesting by an account of St. Paul's, the cathedral and the churchyard, by Mr. George Augustus Sala. It has, besides, a beautifully-illustrated wrapper and calendar, which are in themselves specimens of taste and skill in colour-printing, and are most pleasing objects to look at.

When advertisements come in such an agreeable shape as this they cannot fail to be welcome, and, I should suppose, effective.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.
THE MAGAZINES.

Mr. Clayden's article in the *Fortnightly* on the "Ecclesiastical Organisations of English Dissent" is very interesting, and curiously just; but it does not seem to me correct to say that the Independents are more strict as to letting members into the church than the Baptists; is not the reverse true? I may be wrong, but I think, also, Mr. Clayden underrated the part played by the seat-holders among the Independents. I have read in the books of Plymouth Brethren, and other seceders, that one of their reasons for withdrawing was that the seat-holders voted with the church on certain questions—notably, on the choice of a minister. Mr. Thornton on the "Ways and Means of Trades Unions" is admirable, and your readers, Mr. Editor, will I think be edified by this little quotation:—

Some five-and-twenty years ago a working-class friend of mine, then a weaver's boy, was sitting in a bookseller's shop at Stockport, when another customer, entering, was greeted by the shopman with "Well, Jack, what art doing now?" "Oh! I'm delegate for Preston strike," was Jack's reply. "And that pays better nor weaving, I'll be bound," rejoins the first. "And so the Preston lads be out still, ay?" "Ay, that they be," answers the other, "and I don't mean 'em to go in again as long as they give me my two guineas a week and my travelling expenses." "What are the duties of a committee-man?" was asked by the Sheffield Commissioners of a witness who had been serving for sixteen weeks in that capacity. Witness "didn't know." "What did you do yourself?" "I sat still and supped ale." "What did the others do?" "Many of them supped ale, too." At the particular meeting about which the witness was being questioned, he had, he said, signed a paper drawn up by the secretary, but he had not read it, nor heard it read, nor did he know what was in it. "Had, then, committee-men no duties beside that of supping ale?" Deponent couldn't say; during his sixteen weeks of office he had not discovered any. I have been credibly informed that, during the great Preston strike, the deputies from the central committee denied themselves the public use of ale, and bound themselves under penalty not to drink any liquor less "respectable" than brandy.

Mr. Dowden, in criticising Mr. Tainsh, says that he believes the "soul" of Mr. Tennyson's poetry to be Mr. Tennyson's veneration "for law in all its manifestations," but, I think, it is an open question whether Mr. Tennyson's natural tendency as a poet was, at first, in the same line with his bias as a man of good society. Perhaps, to put it roughly, he would have been a better poet if he had been less of a Conservative. There must be a good deal of the insurgent spirit in every lyric poet; and the man who subscribed, as Mr. Tennyson did, for the defence of Governor Eyre, must, one suspects, at some time of his life, have done a little violence to certain tendencies which the Muses love rather than the policeman. Perhaps I may go so far as to add that I have a very strong opinion to the effect that Mr. Tennyson's is a clear case of arrested development as a poet.

The *Contemporary* is able to maintain its interest without having any story running through it. The essay entitled "Professor Bain on the Doctrine of the Correlation of Force in its Bearing on Mind" is a paper of the very highest rank. The hit with which it concludes, about "extended and unextended consciousness," is admirable. Mr. Dale, on "Lacordaire," is readable and sensible, with frequent gleams of something which is almost insight; but, in spite of the frankness and the boldness of the man, it is difficult sometimes to tell how he has made out his argument conclusively to himself. I cannot make out pages 18 and 19. For example: suppose somebody were to deliver a lecture in which he maintained, not that we have historic or contingent certainty that there was such a man as Julius Caesar, that he was a great captain, and that he did certain things, but that we ought to be as certain as we are of our own existence, or of the first law of conscience, that Julius Caesar existed, and did certain things, and was not only a great captain, but the god Mars in person—what should we think of him? Some of us would be sure to say to such a lecturer, "You talk nonsense; for it is quite within the limits of possibility that evidence may turn up to-morrow to show that there never was such a person as Julius Caesar, or, at least, that he has been very much misrepresented." Now, it is possible to give a sophistical answer to this kind of criticism. There is, indeed, a current answer which is very satisfactory indeed to—young ladies; but will Mr. Dale or some one else tell us, at least, how he *thinks* he makes out that he can be as certain of a past fact of history as he can, for example, that he ought not to injure his neighbour?

Some time ago I said, in speaking of the *Cornhill*, that a suggestion once made in this column to the effect that deaf-mutes could be taught to speak had been confirmed by facts of which I was ignorant when I made the suggestion. The last number of the *Cornhill* reminds me of what I had forgotten—namely, that the idea was not a new one. An article entitled "Out of the Silence," giving some details of the very deepest possible interest, conveys the delightful information that England, as well as the Continent, has its school for teaching the deaf and dumb to speak. Perhaps the majority of readers will be more pleased with that unspeakably charming paper "Recollections of Gibson, the Sculptor." I quote a very brief passage. His anatomical studies led him in his youth into the society of medical students:—

I have heard him tell, with simple and graphic force, anecdotes of this period of his life which might have been worked up by Edgar Poe into awful and fear-inspiring romances. One of these stories he told with great tenderness. He and some of his friends had obtained the right, by payment of a considerable sum, of disinterring the corpse of a person who had lately died in a hospital. They went to the churchyard at night and dug up the coffin. No particulars of the sex or age of the corpse had been given. It was a bright moonlight night, and when the lid was removed a beautiful young woman was discovered beneath the pauper's shroud. She had been too lately buried for death to alter her beauty, and as she lay before them so white and lovely, with her smooth hair braided over her forehead and hanging down round the delicate throat, that these wild youths were awed. "We stood quite still, looking at her," he said, "and then, without a word, the coffin was closed, and we lowered into the ground again. We had not spoken a syllable, but we all had felt alike that it was impossible to touch her." To this allow me to add that Mr. Gibson was, according to this article, very critical on female dresses, and wished women to wear drapery, as in the classic age—"a sheet fastened by a button on the shoulder, and hair pulled low down over the brows." I have somewhere seen it stated that Gibson used to say that one of his models, the most beautiful youth he had ever seen, had committed a murder. Shelley wrote, in one of his letters to Peacock, that the very first thing he saw on entering some Italian city was a murder—a man ran out of a shop and stabbed another in the neck, and nobody seemed to think much of it!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The complimentary benefit to Mr. Paul Bedford at the QUEEN'S, on his retirement from the stage, was thoroughly successful in every material respect. The only hitch in the proceedings occurred in the travesty of "Othello" by Mr. Sothorn and Mr. Buckstone, which the audience would not endure.

A new ballet has this week been produced at the ALHAMBRA. It is entitled "The Sprig of Shillelagh"; is, of course, full of Irish jigs, and is very effective.

In the absence of any novelty during the past week, I am driven, perforce, to lounge by anticipation among novelties to come. Mr. Watts Phillips's drama "Nobody's Child," which achieved some degree of success at the Surrey Theatre some months since, is to be revived at the PRINCESS'S. It is difficult to understand the reason for this revival, as the piece is wholly destitute of literary merit, and can only serve a useful purpose in affording the scene-painter a chance of distinguishing himself in the ravine scene. "Foul Play," by Mr. Dion Boucicault and Mr. Charles Reade, will be produced at the HOLBORN on Saturday. Miss Josephs had, I believe, intended to have opened her theatre with this piece. At the PRINCE OF WALES'S the last nights of "Play" are advertised. It is intended, I understand, to revive "Ours," and to play it until Mr. Robertson's next comedy is ready. I further understand that Mr. Byron's "Lancashire Lass," which was lately produced at Liverpool, is to be played at the QUEEN'S. Mr. Palgrave Simpson and another gentleman, who prefers to preserve his incognito, are also engaged upon a drama for this theatre.

OPENING OF THE LEEDS ART-TREASURES EXHIBITION.

ON Tuesday his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales formally inaugurated the Leeds Art-Treasures Exhibition—one of the finest provincial displays of the kind that have been seen since the celebrated collection at Manchester. The whole ceremony from first to last passed off with unexampled smoothness and success. It was so smooth, in fact, in its almost routine evenness as to be quite devoid of incident. It was a programme varied only by the enthusiasm with which the various parts of it were welcomed both within and without the building. The day was nearly all that could be wished—that is to say, it could not have been finer, though it might have been cooler with great advantage as to comfort, for the sun shone down the broad, open streets with an intense glare that was at times distressing. Still, it seemed to make no manner of impression on the enormous crowds of spectators, who manfully bore the heat and brunt of the day, and stood patiently for hours only to see the Prince pass to the building and return from it.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCE.—THE PREPARATIONS.

His Royal Highness reached the Woodlesford station of the Midland Railway, the nearest point by which he could approach by rail to the mansion of his host at Templenewsam, on Monday. Nearly 15,000 people were present. Colonel Reilly's battery of horse artillery fired a Royal salute, and Lord Fitzwilliam and Mr. Meynell Ingram received the Prince, who was attended by Lord C. Hervey, Sir W. Knollys, Major Teeddale, and Mr. Wood. Major-General Sir John Garvoch was present as commanding the forces in the district, and the escort was furnished by a squadron of the Yorkshire Hussars. In the fine old mansion of Templenewsam great preparations had been made in honour of the occasion, and a splendid ball was given in the evening, at which the Prince remained till dawn. Leeds, meanwhile, though not exactly dancing, was not less busy or less gay. Its streets were thronged with sightseers; for all the illuminations were undergoing a preparatory trial, and, as the wind was high, a very arduous trial it seemed to be. All Leeds was busy throughout Monday night; and, from the size of the barriers erected and the nature of the decorations, one would have thought the good town was celebrating its deliverance from some strongly-pressed and almost successful siege. Windows, it is true, did not command the prices which were asked when it was thought the Princess was coming; but still, very large sums were paid for good views of the very small procession. In the streets along the route as much was done as there was time to do it in. Houses that had grown black and grim with a long experience of murky atmosphere were made to shine out clean at least; balconies were built into structures never intended for them, and whole façades were made at once brilliant and odoriferous under the influence of the brightest paints. The sky hue of the town, made picturesque rather than beautiful in its display of house roofs so variously and wonderfully constructed; of church spires so changeably designed; of long chimneys which shot up into the heavens, and each of which seemed trying which was to be the longest, was for this occasion relieved and made in a way attractive by hundreds of banners and flags that streamed from every convenient and inconvenient elevation. At some places the sight-line down the streets was completely hidden by their huge folds, and nowhere could the eye turn without being encountered with the blazons of half the monarchies in the world, and most certainly with those of the chief Potentates in Europe. Late and early men were kept hammering and sawing, restoring and improving; and as the effect of the devices for illumination purposes was being tested, the light which was obtained showed not only a crowd of spectators, but lit up men still working, as if under a punishment that was never to end. It looked as if Leeds had determined to alter its appearance in a night; and, indeed, on Tuesday morning, it seemed as if it had carried out such a determination. The sun rose upon the full proportions of triumphal arches which a few hours before had been nothing but skeletons; upon rich colouring on house fronts that were bare and ugly enough on Monday; upon the quaint terminations of the new Infirmary, and upon the Townhall, richer than any other building in the elaborateness of its decorations. It showed all Leeds to greater advantage than it has ever done before. The decorations, as we have stated, were not so complete as they were when the Queen came, but they were very satisfactory. What had been left to individuals was done so far as workmen could be obtained to execute it; what was taken in hand by the Corporation was skilfully executed. The members of each family gratified their own tastes to a great extent, so that along the route there was little, if any, sameness about private decorations, and where, as at the Townhall, much was expected from professional skill, the effect was pleasing and attractive. The great attraction of the sight, however, was not its decorations, but the vast masses of people which were drawn together from all parts of Yorkshire and the surrounding counties. The crowd was not greater, perhaps not even so great, as when her Majesty opened the Townhall; but it was second only to that vast concourse, and it would be difficult to say more of its immensity in fewer words. From almost dawn the country people came streaming in, at first in twos and threes, and then in a long straggling line, which only thinned at the rural breakfast hour of eight o'clock, and then resumed its flow with greater force than ever. Soon after ten Leeds was very full indeed. It always is a rather crowded town, so when we say it was very full indeed we mean that by soon after ten o'clock the paths behind the barriers were quite lined and almost impassable, while even the roofs of all the houses far and near, to say nothing of the windows, was thronged with spectators. So much local bunting has seldom been draped in so small a space or in so short a time.

THE PROCESSION.

The route taken by the Prince from Templenewsam, though the shortest that could be devised, was still a long one—about seven miles. The greater part of this, of course, lay through country districts. Still nearly three miles of it was in the town of Leeds itself. From the Kirkgate the procession, if it may be so called, wound through the busiest and most popular quarters of Leeds. The Prince was in a plain, open carriage and four, preceded by two outriders in scarlet liveries. He wore a plain morning dress, with the ribbon of the Garter across his white waistcoat. Beyond this and the escort, there were no signs of state whatever. What, however, was wanting in the procession was amply made up in the demonstrations to receive it, for to the good townspeople of Leeds the Prince seemed to be all in all. Every window was thronged, every housetop covered. All the houses were ripped over with waving pocket-handkerchiefs, and even from distant by-roads, in which the people could see little, if anything, of the little that was to be seen, the white fluttering welcome could be discerned far and near, while the roar of cheers and clapping of hands were almost deafening and certainly incessant. The enthusiasm, as his Royal Highness drove very slowly along, was almost boundless, and wherever a halt occurred in the little procession, as it did very frequently, and often for rather long intervals, the cheering around the Prince's carriage was as long as it was loud, and, as a demonstration of welcome, it would be very difficult to say more than this. Near the Leeds Infirmary the scene was really fine. The front of the Townhall was lined with volunteers, and up the hill leading to the exhibition every avenue was thronged, every window crowded, and every housetop covered with spectators. These seen under the bright sun, amid the almost endless waving of flags, garlands, and banners, and, amid the continued cheering, clapping of hands, and flutter of handkerchiefs, made up a scene of welcome and enthusiasm which cannot easily be described or forgotten by those who saw it.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

To the central hall of the Exhibition visitors were admitted at eleven o'clock. It was beautifully decorated, and its chief decorations were those which are always most effective—flowers and ferns. From the central roof hung, in alternate rows, baskets of the most exquisite plants; while the ornamental buttresses which ran into the court were made still more ornamental by being wreathed, in the most artistic manner, with groups of ivy and masses of artificial

climbers. The round dais, with a demi throne, stood well out in the centre of the hall, the background to which was formed by the orchestra; the background of which, again, was filled in with climbing shrubs, and a golden trellis. Altogether, in spite of the great heat of the day, the effect of the whole was cool and most strikingly beautiful. All the places were well arranged, and, considering that the area at the disposal of the executive committee was very limited indeed, in comparison with the demands made upon its space, nothing could have been better managed.

His Royal Highness arrived at the building soon after one o'clock, and after a short delay, during which the audience remained, as it were, on the very tip-toe of expectation, the procession entered the hall. What followed was, as it generally is on these occasions, a matter of the purest routine. The National Anthem was sung, and at its conclusion the Mayor and Corporation advanced and presented an address. Mr. Beckett Denison, chairman of the executive committee, then read an address from that body, which, as is invariably the case on these occasions, was inordinately long, which very few heard, and which, to judge from appearances, still fewer cared to hear. It commenced by referring to the fact that that building was first projected in 1862, when, in consequence of increasing pressure for accommodation in the Leeds General Infirmary, it was found necessary to erect a new hospital, and that the contributions for its erection included systematic contributions by large numbers of the working classes out of their weekly earnings. The design of the building was intrusted to Mr. George Gilbert Scott, and its architectural features made it a great ornament to the town. Accommodation was provided for 300 patients, being double that of the existing infirmary; and in the autumn of 1866, when the building was approaching completion, the aspect of the ten galleries gave rise to the idea of an exhibition of paintings and works of art before it was opened for charitable purposes. The proposal was laid before the inhabitants in September, 1866, and within two months a guarantee fund of £110,000 was subscribed. Her Majesty the Queen, on being appealed to, at once accorded her patronage, and at a later period gave further evidence of her interest by permitting contributions to be made from the Royal collections. His Royal Highness was also graciously pleased to bestow his patronage, and proofs of his condescension and favour would be recognised on the walls, while the names of the other contributors and the contributions themselves showed, how widely and graciously the appeal made to the public was responded to. A most beautiful collection had been brought together. It was a satisfaction to be able to add that not a single accident had happened to anything brought into the building. After an appropriate allusion to the compulsory absence of the Princess of Wales, and the expression of a hope that she would be enabled to receive in person on some future occasion a manifestation of the feelings of respectful affection entertained for her in that as in every other portion of the Queen's dominions, the address concluded with an assurance that in the absence of her Majesty nothing could be more gratifying than his Royal Highness's presidency, which the committee trusted would help to implant a love of art in the minds of many thousands of visitors.

The Prince having replied, a prayer was offered up by the Bishop of Ripon, after which, while sacred music was being performed, the Prince was conducted over the exhibition. After going round the collection his Royal Highness returned to the dais, where, amid continued cheers, he, in the name of her Majesty, declared the exhibition opened. This brought the public ceremonial to a close, and the Prince, with most of the principal guests, retired to a luncheon which had been arranged for them by Messrs. Spiers and Pond, to whom has been given sole charge of the refreshment department of the exhibition. His Royal Highness was to have left soon after four o'clock; but he was detained in the building till nearly six by a very sharp thunderstorm, which broke out just before his departure, and which brought down the rain in torrents.

THE ILLUMINATIONS, BALL, ETC.

The illuminations in the evening were very effective, and the streets crowded to a late hour. The company invited to the Mayor's ball began to assemble at ten o'clock. The Prince of Wales, however, did not arrive until midnight. He led the Mayoress into the ball-room, and a quadrille was immediately formed. The Prince opened the ball with the Mayoress, and the Mayor of Leeds with Lady Fitzwilliam for his partner. Dancing went on with great spirit until a late hour. The Prince of Wales and a select party had supper in the Mayor's state rooms; covers were laid for fifty. The other guests of the Mayor and Mayoress, about 1000 in all, were sumptuously regaled. All the nobility and gentry who attended the opening of the exhibition were present.

THE TOWNHALL AND ITS CONTENTS.

Though the new building differs entirely from those in which all former Exhibitions have been held, it nevertheless, by its very peculiarities—by its six grand staircases and ten finely-proportioned galleries in connection with a number of smaller rooms, most of which are lighted from the roof—is admirably suited to the purposes of a fine-art exhibition; and for picturesque effect in its general arrangement and as a depository for valuable works of art, it has the great advantages that it is perfectly ventilated, that it is fireproof and watertight—in fact, a strong permanent structure, in which the treasures of art deposited in it are as safe as on the walls of their owners at home. The great central hall, 150 ft. long by 65 ft. wide, with its ornamental and finely-designed iron and glass roof, is of course the great rendezvous of the building. Sheltered from the changes of the weather, and adorned with flowers, fountains, and statues, it forms a most beautiful central court; and, as we have said, its aspect on Tuesday was charming in the highest degree. For the principal ceremonies connected with the Exhibition, as a concert-hall or promenade, this hall will be of essential service. The art-galleries are ten in number, and each about 125 ft. long by 28 ft. wide. The communication between them is effected by spacious staircases on the principal floor, while a terrace above connects those on the upper floor, without the visitor having any occasion to re-descend the stairs. The smaller rooms, including the chapel, which is in itself a little gem of art, have been reserved for the display of a fine collection of ornamental works of art, such as gems, medals, carvings, and ancient ecclesiastical works. The fine main staircases afford good scope for picturesque treatment. In these and in the grand staircase and central court, sculpture, paintings, tapestry, trophies, plants, and flowers have been so combined as to produce a wonderful effect. The general decoration of the interior of the galleries is of a light, cheerful character, pleasing to the eye, but moderate in extent, and quite suited to the permanent character of the building.

As regards the arrangement of the art-collection, it would be unjust not to give it the highest praise. In the case of the pictures, however, it has two faults which the construction of the building rendered almost unavoidable. The first is that several pictures are in a very bad light, and have too much sun on them; and, secondly, that the sight line is generally too low. The pictures exhibited are works entirely selected for their merit as of the highest class of art, and they are arranged, as far as possible, so as to show the various schools of painting and the various periods of the art. A rigidly chronological arrangement, however, is not adhered to. In the English, in the French, and in the Dutch school the collection is especially rich. Among the early masters there are specimens of almost every style, from the earliest down to Vandyke and Rubens. The gallery of works of ornamental art includes, as its description implies, works of art of almost every kind, except paintings and statues. Here is a superb collection of enamels both of the Chinese and Limoges style, rock crystal vases, crockers, maces, antique weapons damascened with gold on steel. Here also is one of the finest collections of rare old China that have ever been brought together. It is arranged in cases according to periods, the Raphaellesque, the majolica, the early Dresden, the jewelled Sèvres, the Chelsea, the Worcester, and the Wedgwood. Of the Chelsea, Wedgwood, and Sèvres there is a most remarkable display. Among the metal works is the celebrated Cellini shield from Windsor Castle, which has no equal in the world save Cellini's own chalice made for Leo X., and the great nautilus cup, both now in England, the former at the British Museum and the latter at Windsor.

Literature.

Love or Marriage? A Novel. By WILLIAM BLACK. In 3 vols. Tinsley Brothers, London.

This novel is so full of performance that one hesitates to use the commonplace of reviewers about first books and say it is full of promise; and yet it is so full of promise that one hesitates to set a limit to what may be expected of the author. In one respect it is emphatically distinguished from the enormous majority of novels—the author possesses an amount of speculative intelligence which is, perhaps, not less than his direct productive power as a writer of imagination. In this particular he is superior to all recent novelists—it would not be too much to say, superior to all English novelists whatever, except George Eliot. He has not the perfect finish of George Eliot, nor does he at present fuse his work so well; but his wit is not inferior, and his irony has a grace and brightness which are peculiarly his own. In real descriptive power, as distinguished from the trumpery thing called word-painting, Mr. Black takes very high rank. The reader of these volumes will discover for himself how vividly and truthfully his author can paint character—having once made the acquaintance of Fanny Glencairn, of Mr. Glencairn, the Prussian Major, and Mr. Helstone, he will feel that he has been introduced to a new set, who are as real as his own acquaintances, and will not readily slip out of his memory. As for the story, Mr. Black, by a natural instinct which is in itself rare and hopeful, strikes a just medium between the slightly over-done Jane-Austenism of some recent novels, upon the one hand, and excess in the "action," upon the other. It is evident that he could, if he devoted sufficient pains to it, make use of quasi-supernatural colouring, such as Hawthorne delighted in; but the story as it now stands is not as brightly successful in this respect as it is in others.

Taking life to be a problem and a theorem, Mr. Black has not encumbered the narrative with a moral, and yet its moral adjustments are admirable. Glencairn is a pious, hazy, gentle, unworldly old ironmonger and naturalist, married to a hard, thin-souled, respectable wife, with one child, Fanny, who is pretty, tender, anxious to be sincere (indeed, she is sincere), and yet too readily swayed by her dislike to giving or taking pain to be capable of direct fidelity to ordinary people. Bennett, a handsome young painter, with plenty of the usual good qualities, but rather "soft" and wholly unfit to get along with a girl like Fanny, is her sweetheart. To these, enter Helstone, a well-to-do journalist of thirty. Without intending it, this gentleman brings out latent elective affinities all round; and in the end he walks off with Fanny, Bennett taking to another young lady, who, without the glitter and, indeed, without the subtlety of Fanny's character, has more of the qualities which make ordinary domestic life go smoothly. The best of our contemporaries have warmly praised this book, but, with one or two exceptions, they have not even knocked the spade against the suggestion which lies in the moral adaptations of the characters (as presented to us) to certain situations, and no others. We can only indicate this point. The attentive reader must compare the relative positions of the pieces at the end of the game with their relative positions at its opening, and ask himself how and why it has all happened.

Of the interest of the book we can, we fear, convey no idea. Still less can we quote the good things it contains, or the incidental descriptions, at once sweet and minute, of nature. What we have just given is the merest adumbration—it is not even at outline-of the story. Neither, without long extracts, could we give any just impression of the tenacity of the author's grasp of the poetry of life; a grasp never (with one slight exception) relaxed, even when the narrative winds its way through the most prosaic details. The atmosphere of youth and love-making overhangs the whole; even the suggestions of the pettiness of city life, and the shocking incidents of the Bismarck War. We may add that those portions of the work which relate to that bear obvious traces of minute personal knowledge.

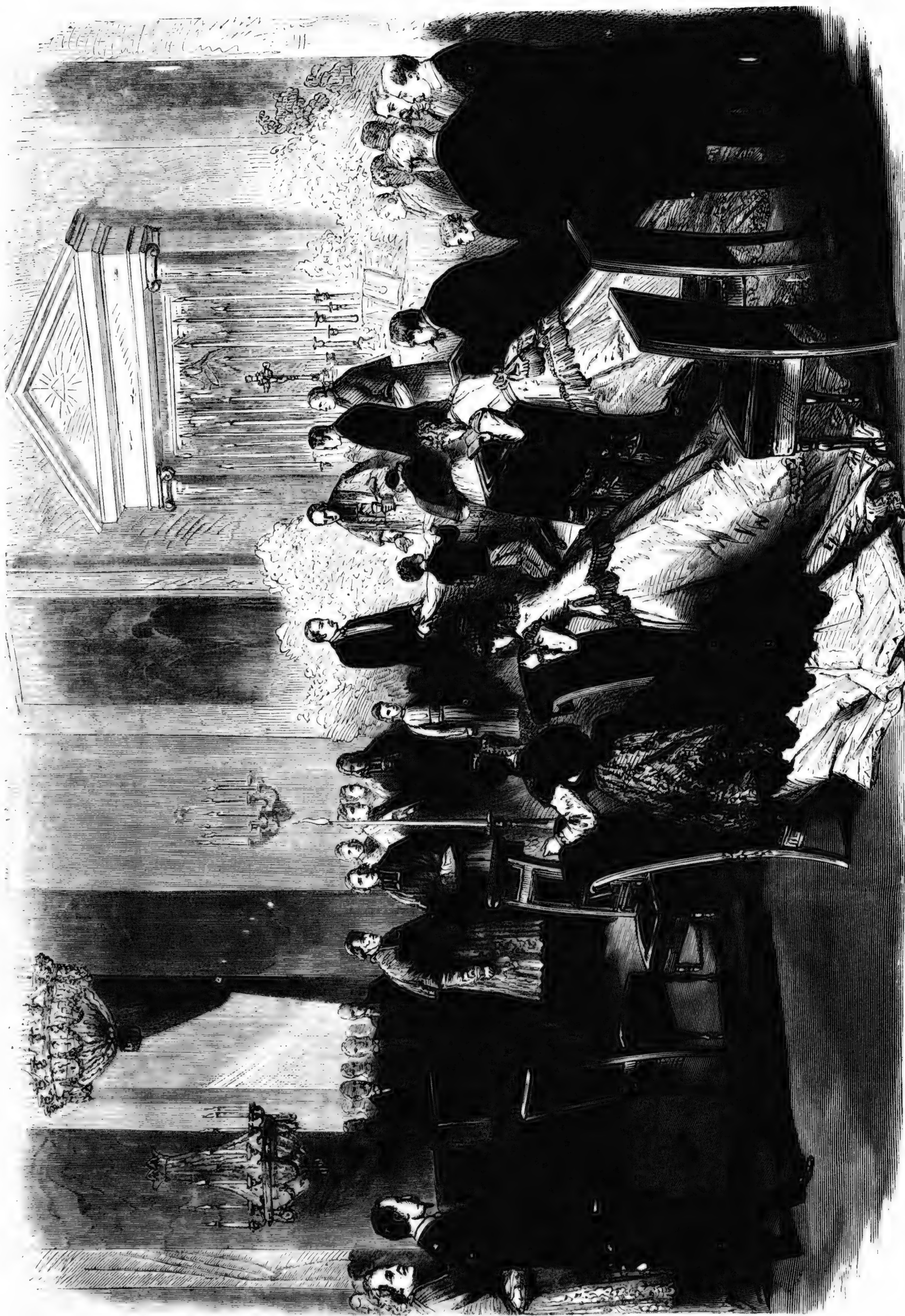
When a writer, as frankly pleasant as many passages in this book show Mr. Black to be, undertakes to carry a double love story through all kinds of sinuosities and nice shady places for a thousand pages, he is sure to make a delightful book. And Mr. Black, though he occasionally pushes his unaffectedness of style to the length of negligence, is more than frankly pleasant—he is a man of genius, of whom we shall hear more one of these days.

La Belle France. By BESSIE PARKES-BELLOC. Author of "Vignettes," &c. London: Strahan and Co.

Full of the enthusiasm of a new faith—conversion or perversion to Roman Catholicism, as the reader's own faith pleases—Mrs. Parkes-Belloc has roamed through France lovingly. How the beauties, which are possibly imaginary, light up when the great discoverer, Love, arrests and dazzles the attention! Under such influences as affection exerts, the shape of noses has been known to change, and large fortunes have seemed to be so much dross. And a book, like a human being, is nothing unless in a happy frame of mind. It is possible, however, that with but just a mountain or two to cross, the *couleur de rose* might have paled. Spain or Italy might be too much, religiously, for one who must have loved pure English calm. But France takes up the new enthusiasm by degrees; and provincial France—no Paris!—is very beautiful. The present volume, which is evidently a labour of love, and is composed in prose and verse, takes us to such places as Bourges, Tours, Rheims, Guincamp, &c. It is "composed from an antiquarian and poetical point of view," and is designed to preserve some of that beauty which is yearly "vanishing like a dream." The sketches were all written on the spot which they describe; and the local actual colouring, as well as that of tradition, has been very naturally caught. There is not one line of the guide-book element; for all the descriptions are those of an artist, and by no means those of a railway surveyor or contractor. No chance is lost of introducing an ancient legend of saints, or others, of history or of modern people to be met with in travelling. Thus St. Louis, by more than one reminiscence, has his story told once more in very reverent language; and Jacques Cœur seems deliberately to live over again. For the present day there is a very interesting account of M. Maitre and his workshops at Dijon, which can heartily be recommended to the attention of all employers of labour. Whilst this patron, this chief of labour in all that can possibly relate to the art of bookbinding, seems admirable in all his domestic arrangements for the comfort and morals of his people, it seems strange that men should earn but three francs a day and the women only half that sum for twelve hours' work. It is cheaper to live in Dijon than in London, truly—and pleasanter; but it is a thing for the political economists to look to. Will M. Maitre send us some skilled workmen from Dijon? Would he like a few from London? However, such questions as these are not discussed by Mrs. B. Parkes-Belloc. Everything in "La Belle France" is taken to be good; and, indeed, could anything have been found to be dirty it would have been the finest dirt in the world. But the revelling in architecture and scenery, the pictures of peasant life, the stories of the present day and of the years long past, cannot fail to be pleasing to the reader; and there is not one line of intolerance that would affect Mr. Whalley himself. It is a very handsome volume in regard to all publisher's appliances, and is adorned with many well-executed engravings.

FIRST COMMUNION OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

THE first communion of his Highness the Prince Imperial of France took place on the morning of the 7th inst. at nine o'clock in the Chapel of the Tuilleries. The chapel was decorated with flowers, and the Emperor and Empress, with members of their family and several officers of the Crown, were present. Mass was celebrated by Mgr. the Archbishop of Paris, grand almoner. In the afternoon there were vespers, followed by the confirmation of his Highness by the Archbishop. The scene at the moment when the communion elements were handed to the Prince is portrayed in our Engraving. His Imperial Highness is twelve years of age, having been born in 1856.



THE FIRST COMMUNION OF THE FRENCH PRINCE IMPERIAL.

THE PRUDHOE CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL.

IMMEDIATELY after the death of the late Algernon, Duke of Northumberland, a movement was set on foot to erect a memorial of his Grace's many benevolent deeds in the county; and it was determined to erect a memorial convalescent home upon the coast in connection with the infirmary at Newcastle—an institution which admits patients from all parts of Northumberland and Durham, and of which institution the late Duke was a warm and munificent friend. £11,387—which includes £1000 contributed by Sir W. J. Armstrong, and another £1000 which that benevolent gentleman has promised, provided a like sum is raised by other gentlemen increasing their subscriptions—has been contributed, and a site for the home has been bought on Whitley Links, by the margin of the North Sea. The building, when erected on this site, will command a noble view of the coast and a large extent of the county of Northumberland. The building and grounds will cost about £16,000, and the Duchess of Northumberland has contributed £1000 for internal fittings. There will be accommodation in the home for about one hundred patients. The foundation-stone of the edifice was laid some time ago by Lord Warkworth, son of Earl Percy, and grandson of the present Duke of Northumberland. There was a large attendance of county families at the ceremony, and among those present with Lord Warkworth were his father and mother, Earl and Countess Percy, Sir W. J. Armstrong, Lord Algernon Percy, and the municipal authorities of Newcastle and Shields.

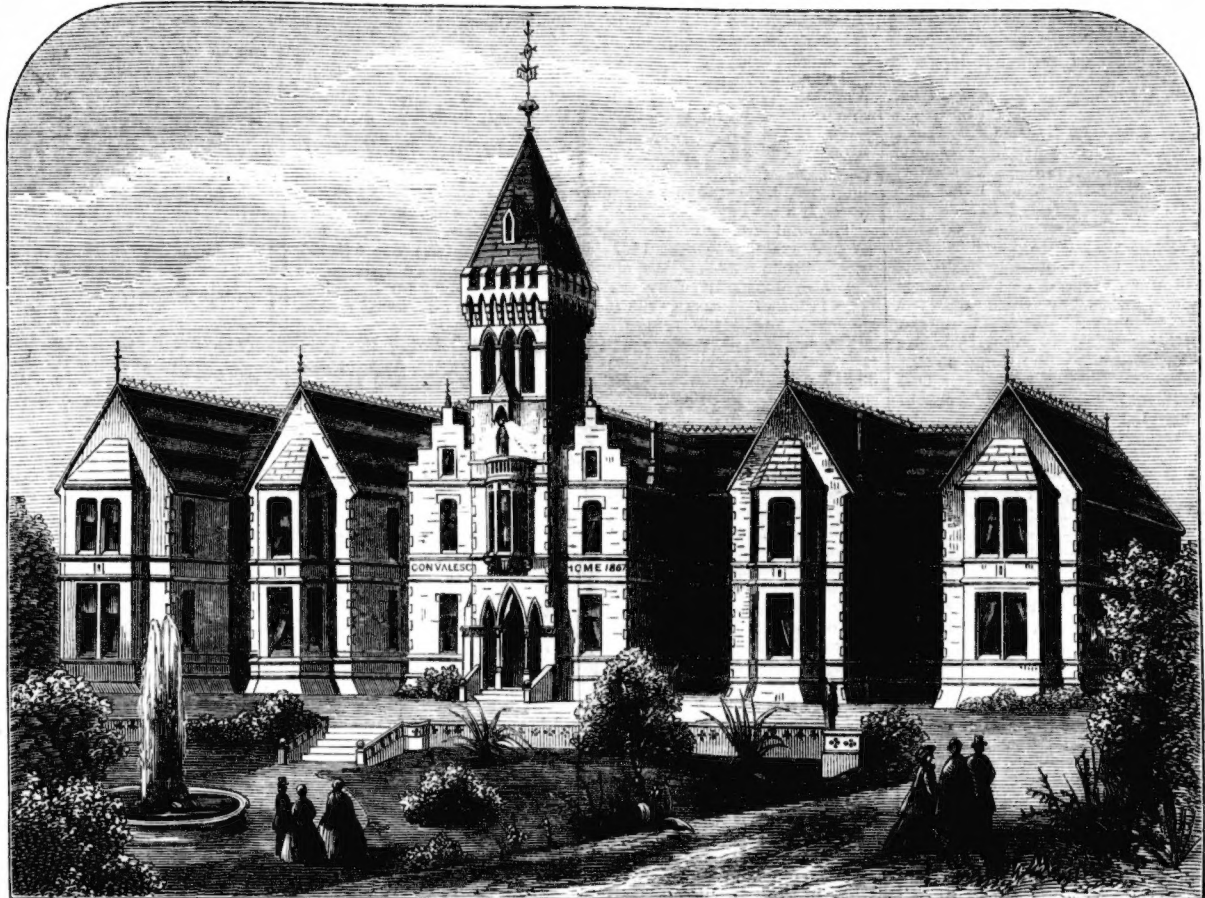
RUBENS'S TOMB IN THE CATHEDRAL, ANTWERP.

THE great Flemish painter, who, with his pupil, Vandyke, may be said to be at the head of the second epoch of art, has given fame to more than one locality where his enormous industry multiplied the works of his genius. At Cologne, where he was born, and at Antwerp, where he afterwards lived, died, and was buried, the numerous pictures of this wonderful man surprise us by their variety of style as well as by their magnitude and boldness of

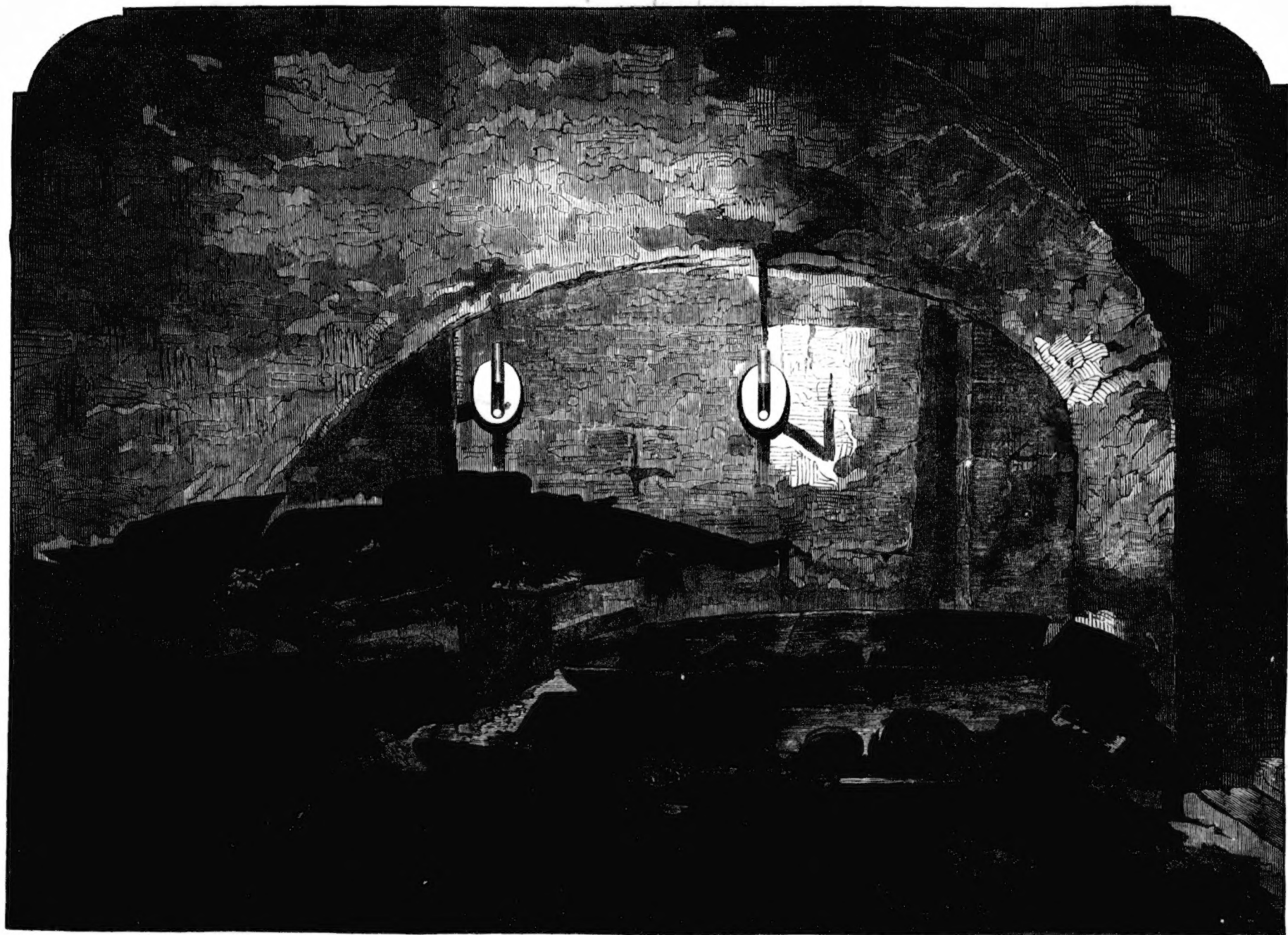
execution. Indeed, it may be said that only those who have given long attention to the churches of these two cities, as well as to the Luxembourg and our own National Gallery, can estimate the influence which Rubens exerted over an entire epoch of art. "His fame," said Sir Joshua Reynolds, "is extended over a great part of the Continent without a rival; and it may be justly said that he has enriched his country, not in a figurative sense alone, by the great examples of art which he left, but by what some would think a more solid advantage—the wealth arising from the course of strangers whom his works continually invite to Antwerp." It is only in large compositions that his powers seem to have room to expand themselves; this superiority is not seen in easel pictures, nor even in detached parts of his greater works, which are seldom

pieces are to be found; his chef-d'œuvre, "The Descent from the Cross," occupying the first place in the cathedral. It hangs in the south transept, near the door leading out of the Place Verte. The "Saint Christopher," "The Elevation of the Cross," "The Resurrection," and, over the high altar, the celebrated "Assumption of the Virgin," are the principal works of the great painter who lies in his tomb in the splendid cathedral which he had worked so long to embellish. Will our readers think we wish to read them a lesson on mortality, or with "Ars longa vita brevis est" as a text? We desire to do nothing of the sort in words; but we publish an Engraving taken from a sketch of Rubens's grave when it was recently visited for inspection.

eminently beautiful. It does not lie in attitude, or in any peculiar expression, but in the general effect—in the genius which pervades and illuminates the whole. The productions of Rubens seem to flow with a freedom and prodigality as if they cost him nothing, and, besides his excellence in these general powers, he possessed the true art of imitating. He looked upon objects of nature with a painter's eye; he saw, at once, the predominant feature by which every object is known and distinguished; and, as soon as seen, it was executed with a facility that is astonishing. Rubens, perhaps, was the greatest master in the mechanical part of the art, the best workman with his tools, that ever exercised a pencil. And he had need to be a good workman to produce as much as he did, even at Antwerp and elsewhere, in the churches, before he was sent for to paint the Gallery of the Luxembourg, or had accepted the office of Privy Councillor of Spain, after his successful embassy. Neither these honours nor the subsequent favours of Charles I. of England could altogether wean him from his beloved Antwerp, where he had bought the piece of ground on which his house was built, of the Arquebuser, paying them, in right princely fashion, with five pictures instead of the one which they had bargained for; for there was something broad and munificent in the whole man; and Peter Paul Rubens was, like his own works, expansive, and not to be seen on a small easel. It is at Antwerp that his master-



THE PRUDHOE CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL, NORTHUMBERLAND.



THE GRAVE OF RUBENS IN ANTWERP CATHEDRAL.

THE PICTURESCAPE—A BIT OF COLOUR.

"GENTLEFOLKS,—I've lived many a year in this place. You may see the cottage from the sunk fence over yonder. I've seen the ladies draw it in their books a hundred times. It looks well in a picture, I've heard say; but there aint weather in pictures, and may be 'tis fitter for that than for a place to live in. Well, I lived there. How hard—how bitter hard, I won't say. Any day in the year, and every day, you can judge for your own selves." So speaks Will Fern—or the vision of Will Fern as seen by poor old Trotty Veck, where the Chimes had entranced him with their ghostly voices—and so might a hundred real and living men speak everyday of the places where they live, if it can indeed be called living, and from which, if they do not die there, they are removed to their last earthly hope and solace, the parish workhouse; where, old, crippled and half paralysed, they sit as much as they are allowed to sit in the sun, and try to forget the sense of not having had quite enough to eat. It would be well if we thought of these things sometimes in our country rambles, when we come across a "bit of colour" or of "the picturesque," like that in our illustration—not that thinking of them would do much by itself; but, when a good many people think of the same thing at the same time, thinking leads to talking and talking to doing. One honest thinker has been doing what may well be called "yeoman service," by helping the poor labourers of his district to leave the place where generations of bitter lives had passed and to seek some less picturesque place, where wages were higher and there was better protection against the wet and cold that come in autumn and winter through the rotting walls and broken thatch to gnaw the rheumatic bones of the field labourer. There is something practical about this method, and it has had an admirable effect in the district where it has been put in practice. If, in our summer holidays, coming upon a bit of charming wood or undulating pasture-land and noting such an adjunct as that in our Picture, we would for a moment forego artistic feeling for human sympathy, we should be none the worse, and some of our fellows might be so much the better, that a "bit of colour" had been added to our own lives.

THE OPERAS.

LAST Saturday Mdle. Patti, for the first time this season, came before the public as Amina, in "La Sonnambula," that charming part in which Mdle. Patti, now about six years ago, made her first appeal to the intelligence and good taste of the English public. That appeal could not, under the circumstances, be made in vain, nor could it have been more enthusiastically responded to than it was last Saturday, if on that evening it had been made for the first time. As regards all that is essential in her performance, Mdle. Patti can scarcely be said to have improved since her first appearance in the part of Amina. She exhibited something more than talent from the very beginning of her career; but her genius was never more strikingly apparent than it is now. Considered as a vocalist, the young artiste has acquired a certain maturity. Her voice is fuller and richer than it ever was before. As to her acting—certainly the most spontaneous that we have ever seen on the operatic stage, where the histrionic part of the business is, as a rule, sadly conventional—it is so admirable that, in the scene in which Elvino reproaches Amina with her supposed infidelity, the looks, attitudes, and gestures of the Amina are more interesting than the justly-celebrated air in which the rustic hero gives expression to his grief. To be sure, the Elvino at the Royal Italian Opera is Signor Fancelli, who is not quite strong enough for parts of the first magnitude. M. Pettit represents the Count carefully and cleverly; and though we should like a better Elvino, if he could be found, we can only say of the performance in general that it deserves the highest praise.

A new tenor, Signor Ferens, has appeared at Her Majesty's Theatre as Raoul, in "Les Huguenots." The cast was, except as regards the part of Raoul, identical with that of last season—Mdle. Titiens resuming her celebrated character of Valentina, Mdle. Trebelli-Bettini reappearing as the Page, and so on. To sing the music given to that redoubtable operatic personage, Raoul di Nangis, a tenor should possess a number of gifts and acquirements which, unfortunately, are but seldom found combined in the same vocalist. Signor Ferens could probably sing a lighter kind of music with grace and expression, but he was overweighted in that of the chivalrous Raoul. There seemed on this occasion to be a want of understanding between the new tenor and his more experienced coadjutors, which could not but produce unwished-for results. But the great event of late has been the performance of "Don Giovanni" with such an attractive cast that it had the effect of filling the theatre to overflowing. The announcement of a second performance of "Don Giovanni," with the same distribution of characters, was attended, we believe, with the same result. No one impersonation was new. All opera goers had heard Mdle. Titiens as Donna Anna, Mdle. Nilsson as Elvira, and Mdle. Kellogg as Zerlina; but no one had heard them all together in "Don Giovanni," or any other opera. Hence the attraction caused by what must certainly be regarded as a most remarkable combination. Instead of visiting Her Majesty's Opera once to hear Mdle. Titiens, once to hear Mdle. Nilsson, and once again to hear Mdle. Kellogg, the judicious theatre-goer can now make himself acquainted with the merits of all three by attending one single representation of "Don Giovanni." It must not be forgotten that Mr. Santley plays the part of Don Giovanni, and Herr Rokitsky that of Leporello. But what really attracts the public is, no doubt, the assignment of the three principal female characters to three such singers as Mdle. Titiens, Mdle. Nilsson, and Mdle. Kellogg. The unusually strong cast of "Don Giovanni" having proved a great success, it is proposed to treat the "Marriage of Figaro" in the same style. Indeed, that thoroughly beautiful work is about to be produced, with Mdle. Titiens in the part of the Countess, Mdle. Kellogg in that of Cherubino, and Mdle. Nilsson in that of Susanna.

PROPOSED RAILWAY AMALGAMATION.—There is now a bill quietly passing through Parliament which is to effect a combination of all the railways which have terminal or principal stations in South London; and it modestly proposes that there shall be unlimited fares for express trains; ordinary first class, 3d.; second class, 2d.; third class, 1½d. per mile. These charges are exorbitant as compared with those on the three great lines north of the Thames—the North-Western, the Great Western, and the Great Northern—which for the last twenty years have been fixed at about one half the proposed new tariff. But, besides these increased mileage charges, it is sought to impose what seems to be in the nature of a toll—that is, a charge of 1s., 9d., and 6d. respectively on first, second, and third class passengers for the use of the London stations. If such a bill as this is allowed to pass, the amount of new taxation on one of the necessities of life which will be exacted under it in the counties of Kent, Sussex, and Surrey, will produce an income nearly equal to the whole revenue of the Irish Church.

THE SUNDAY BANDS IN THE PARKS.—The National Sunday League bands began to play, for the first time this season, on Sunday, in Battersea and Victoria Parks. The park-keepers at Battersea Park gave the numbers who entered the park on Sunday afternoon at 30,000, a very large proportion of whom attended the performance of the band. From four o'clock until seven the steam-boats from London arrived at the Battersea Park pier every few minutes, each boat being densely crowded. Addresses to the public were issued, in which it was remarked that since the bands had begun to play—many years since—not a single case calling for the interference of the police had occurred. The performance in Battersea Park was the first on the new orchestra erected by the Commissioner of Public Works. It is light and elegant in appearance, and has been constructed with every attention to acoustic effects. A considerable space round the orchestra has been carefully prepared and gravelled, and inclosed in a double fence of galvanised wire. Inside the inclosure are comfortable seats for 800 people, leaving an ample space for promenade. The cost of the orchestra and inclosure was £1000. The whole of the seats within the inclosure are provided by the Sunday League, the admission being 1d. each. From these receipts and the profits on programmes (the sale of which is undertaken gratuitously by members of the League) the expenses of the band, twenty-one in number, are defrayed. The present number is to be largely increased. The address issued in the Victoria Park gave extracts from the Queen's diary in reference to the pleasure experienced by the Royal family from the playing of the bands at Windsor and other Royal residences on the Sunday evenings. As a mark of respect to the memory of Lord Brougham, the Dead March, from "Saul," was performed by both bands.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

AN account was published, a few days ago, of the income and expenditure of the British Museum, and of the estimated charges and expenses for the ensuing year, together with other facts relating to the institution.

The amount granted last year, according to the provisions of the Appropriation Act, was £99,621, and the total receipts, including this sum, and the votes for establishment, buildings, &c., were £126,754 17s. 6d. The actual expenditure of the year amounted to £100,638 10s. 3d., leaving a balance in hand on March 31 of £26,116 7s. 3d., of which £25,846 10s. 4d. was deposited in the Bank of England. The estimated expenditure of the ensuing year is £99,380, which is a net increase of £3384 on the estimates of last year.

The total number of persons admitted to view the general collections during the year 1867 (exclusive of readers) was 445,036, which was in excess of the number in any year since 1862, when the attractions offered by the second great exhibition brought a large influx of visitors to the metropolis, and the number of admissions to the British Museum was 895,077.

The number of volumes added to the library during the year, including books of music and volumes of newspapers, amounted to 32,645, of which 2066 were presented, 5609 were received in pursuance of the laws of English copyright, 350 were received under the international copyright treaties, and 15,979 were acquired by purchase. Among the noteworthy acquisitions of this department during the year is a collection of nearly 200 volumes of Spanish plays and poetry, mostly of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, presented to the museum by Mr. H. F. Chorley, in accordance with the will of his brother, Mr. John Rutter Chorley. The value of the collection is enhanced by the numerous bibliographical notes in the Spanish language of its late possessor.

Amongst the most interesting of the Oriental manuscripts acquired during the year are an Arabic papyrus, dated A.H. 133 (A.D. 750), one of the earliest specimens of Arabic writing; a Hebrew service book of the fifteenth century, with grotesque initials; and a Coptic papyrus of the eighth century. Amongst the objects acquired by the department of Oriental antiquities are the Royal signet cylinder of Ili, son of Uruk, who reigned in Lower Babylonia about the year 2050 B.C.; and a cylinder of Chaldean workmanship, having the Persian name Nandakhya inscribed in cuneiform characters over the original device at an interval of at least 1500 years after its first engraving.

The department of Greek and Roman antiquities appears also to have been greatly enriched during the year. Amongst the contributions is a skull sculptured in marble, rather larger than nature, found in the ruins of one of the palaces of Tiberius at Capri. This skull, which appears to belong to the best period of Greek art, seems to have been carefully modelled from nature, certain abnormal peculiarities of the original being exactly reproduced.

There have been 723 acquisitions in the department of British and mediæval antiquities and ethnography, exclusive of the Christy collection; together with a large number of ancient coins and medals, some of them being of great rarity.

The collection of zoology, embracing all classes of the animal kingdom, has been increased to the number of 81,228 specimens, chiefly of the annulosa kinds; and most, if not all, of the other departments of the Museum have been enriched during the year.

THE SUSPENSORY BILL.

THE following is the text of this measure:—

A Bill to prevent, for a limited Time, new Appointments in the Church of Ireland, and to restrain, for the same Period, in certain Respects, the Proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland.

Whereas Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to signify that she has placed at the disposal of Parliament for the purposes of legislation during the present Session her interest in the temporalities of the several archbishoprics, bishoprics, and other ecclesiastical dignities and benefices in Ireland, and in the custody thereof:

And whereas it is expedient to prevent the creation of new personal interests in the Established Church in Ireland through the exercise of any public patronage, and to restrain in certain respects the powers of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. In case of the vacancy of any Archbishopric or Bishopric, or of any ecclesiastical dignity or benefice in Ireland, in the gift of Her Majesty, or to which any Archbishop, Bishop, or other ecclesiastical corporation as such, or any trustee or trustees acting in a public capacity, are or shall be entitled to present or appoint, it shall not be lawful to appoint any person to succeed to such Archbishopric, Bishopric, dignity, or benefice, and upon the happening of such vacancy the management and receipt of the rents and profits of all the lands, tithes, and other emoluments appertaining to such Archbishopric, Bishopric, dignity, or benefice, shall be transferred to and vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland, subject to all charges legally affecting the same; and the said Commissioners shall have power to grant renewals and do all other acts which may be necessary for the due and proper management thereof, and shall cause the same and the proceeds thereof to be kept distinct from all other funds, to be disposed of in such manner as Parliament shall direct.

2. In case of the vacancy of any Archbishopric or Bishopric, the person designated by the 31st section of the 3rd and 4th William IV., chap. 37, to execute the powers of the said Act during such vacancy, shall be the guardian of the spiritualities of such Archbishopric or Bishopric; and in case of the vacancy of any benefice with cure of souls, all the powers and authorities granted by the 16th section of the said Act for supplying the spiritual wants of suspended benefices shall apply and be exercised in respect of such vacant benefice by the same persons and in the same manner as therein directed, provided that in regulating the salary of the officiating minister regard shall be had to the nature and extent of the duties to be discharged.

3. It shall not be lawful for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland to make any new grant for the building, rebuilding, or enlarging of any church or chapel, or for the building of any glebe house, or the augmentation of any benefice, or the maintenance of any minister, or the purchase of any house, land, or title rentcharge.

4. Every person who shall be appointed to any lay office in connection with the Established Church in Ireland after the passing of this Act shall hold the said office subject to the pleasure of Parliament.

5. This Act shall continue in force until the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND.—The Duke of Richmond was summoned by Her Majesty, on Wednesday, to attend her at Balmoral, and he left London forthwith. What bearing this movement may have upon the Ministerial crisis remains to be seen. It must be borne in mind, however, that when Lord Derby's retirement was in contemplation the name of the Duke of Richmond was freely mentioned as that of his successor. And again, when Mr. Disraeli recently went to the Queen with his difficulties the Duke of Richmond was the peer who, in the House of Lords, gave a very different account of the result of that interview to the one given in the House of Commons by Mr. Disraeli.—*Star*.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN ROME.—The soil of Rome, ever fertile in archaeological treasures, has just yielded a fresh and very complete specimen of ancient mosaic art, being the pavement of a room, excavated last week, in the Vicolo Serrato, a lane between the Barberini gardens and the new Constanzi Hotel. Other rooms belonging to the same Roman house or villa would be revealed, it is supposed, by excavating in the adjoining garden, belonging to the nuns of Santa Susanna. The importance and beauty of the pavement now found leads to the inference that the building containing it formed part of Sallust's villa, which, it is known, occupied this locality.

LOCUSTS IN SARDINIA.—A plague of locusts is scouring the island of Sardinia, which from its poverty and forsaken condition may be styled the Ireland of Italy. Towards the end of April the municipality of Sassari published a manifesto offering seventy-five centimes for every kilogramme of locusts brought in. The result of this offer was an average supply for several days of 40 cwt. per day; 10,000, having been thus paid away in three days and a half. Then the reward was lowered to fifty centimes per kilo; and, unluckily, this reduced tariff was applied to several sacks of locusts which had been brought in the day before the abatement had been made known. This exasperated the locust-gatherers and a strike ensued. A letter from Sassari says:—"A day lost means so many myriads of locusts rescued from extermination, and capable of overrunning the whole island. No one can form an idea of the thing without seeing it. If the hunt be not resumed to-morrow, in a few days we shall see the crops of every kind, the corn in the fields, vegetables, meadows, the young shoots of the vine, utterly destroyed throughout the whole plain of the Sassarese. The municipality has opened subscriptions for a loan of 100,000. But this certainly will not suffice. If the Government does not come to the assistance of the parishes, contributing a share of the expense, it may give its tax-gatherers in the island of Sardinia a holiday for this year."

THE EASTHORPE TUMULI.

A VERY interesting investigation has been completed by the Rev. James Robertson, of Appleton-le-Street, North Riding, in the westernmost of a group of six tumuli on Amotherby-moor, Easthorpe, near Castle Howard. The mound opened was oval in shape, being 70 ft. east and west by 45 ft. north and south in diameters, and reduced to 3½ ft. high. A previous digging years ago failed to reach the burials. The form and contents of the barrow were altogether unusual. Very little below the surface of the mound, at the centre, a very large slab of Hildesley stone was found, weighing upwards of 2½ cwt. This cover rested on a circle of five large blocks of Easthorpe sandstone each weighing about 2 cwt. These covered a central grave of 9 ft. diameter, cut into the sandstone rock. In this grave were four burials, all overlying each other, the uppermost one being burnt. In addition to these there were nine other discoveries in various parts of the mound, showing a curious combination of inhumed and cremated interments, surface and grave interments, broken human interments, and bones of bodies so broken that the disagreeable feature of cannibalism was strongly suggested. Some of the bodies not in the central grave had been strangely mutilated, and in a manner that indicated the removal of the flesh before burial. The skulls showed the brachycephalic type—that of the round heads, or later race of the Ancient Britons. It is worthy of remark that in all the previous diggings in tumuli by the Rev. Canon Greenwell upon the Howardians no other case of inhumed burials was found. The investigation showed that the form of the barrow was not caused by additions to a round one, but that in the first instance it had been oval. The central burials may be described thus:—At a depth of 3 ft., lying upon a pavement of large stones, some of them burnt, was the body of a young female, lying on the left side, with the head to the south. The body was much contracted, and measured only 2 ft. 3 in. in length from head to foot (or ankle, the feet being absent). The length of the femur was only 11½ in. The left hand of this burial was up to the face. The head was protected by stones, but the pressure of the cover block of Hildesley limestone had greatly damaged the skull, the jaws and facial bones being forced inwards, and some of them protruded through the orbits. The right arm and hand and both feet of this burial were wanting, and the lower jaw showed extraordinary signs of disease, scarcely a single non-carious tooth being found. This is a most unusual feature. One foot to the west of the head of this body was an urn, ornamented over nearly the whole surface with vertical markings, made by a sharp instrument pressed into the clay and dragged downwards. The upper surface of the rim was marked with round punctured holes. This urn was standing upright, and, strangely enough, contained the metacarpal and other bones of the right hand (corresponding exactly with those of the left hand of the burial) and the metatarsal and other bones of both feet. The astragali and larger bones of the feet and the humerus and other bones of the right arm have not been found. Here is an evidence of strange and unaccountable mutilation of an unburnt body. Between the knees and the ribs of this body, and partly overlying it, was deposited the imperfectly burnt bones of a strong and older person, the pieces of skull having been collected together and placed on the east side of the deposit, and touching the breast of the unburnt body. Several pieces of skull and one orbit were selected. One chipping of flint was found before the face of the unburnt body. In the same grave, but 2½ ft. deeper, upon a bed of sand, and covered with sand containing large pieces of charcoal, was another body (of much stronger build and in good preservation), laid on the right side, with the head to the south, with both hands up to the face. The body and the femurs formed a right angle, but the heels were brought up close to the sacrum. The whole burial was covered with large flags of stone, and smaller stones were piled round the head. At the back of the head was a large and much-worked flint knife, and at 18 in. behind the body were found a large flake scraper and another large piece of flint. Below this the grave narrowed to 8 ft. diameter, and at 2½ ft. still lower; a third unburnt (and, of course, the primary) burial was found. This was under unburnt body No. 2, and the position was exactly reversed, being on the left side, with head to the north. The head was surrounded with stones, but the skull was much broken and flattened. The right hand was up to the face, and the heels, as with the previous body, were brought right up to the back. The bones were very much decayed, and were lying upon a thick bed of charcoal, and were covered with 9 in. of sand, and over all a seam of charcoal. In the grave at the western edge, and 6 ft. from the body, was an urn, having lines of punctures, very much broken, and in bad condition, and a portion wanting. Around it were several flakes of flint. The other nine discoveries consisted of detached parts of bodies, with urns, flint implements, pavements (on which fires had been kindled), and numerous other details common alike to most barrows. The tumulus yielded remains in such varied directions that it was completely turned over. The five round barrows adjoining remain for future examination.

BIRMINGHAM SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY.—The Shakespeare Library, founded at Birmingham in 1864, as a tercentenary memorial, a monument to the poet in the appropriate form of a library of Shakespearean literature, was formally opened for free public use on April 23, 1866, the anniversary of Shakespeare's birth, and the Mayor (Mr. Thomas Avery) gave a dinner in honour of the event. All the books have been presented to the Town Council as the permanent custodian, and a large and handsome room has been liberally provided, with a paneled ceiling, carved-oak cases, and plate-glass doors. The collection already includes more than one thousand volumes, many of which are costly, curious, and rare. Mr. Charles Knight presented more than one hundred volumes; Mr. J. O. Halliwell several rare original quarto plays; Messrs. H. Sotheran and Co., a fine fourth folio; Mr. Howard Staunton, a facsimile of the first folio; the late Mr. James Hunt, a fine copy of Boydell's Shakespeare; while local Shakespeareans have liberally contributed funds and books; and Mr. Sam. Whitfield has given a remarkable collection of the tercentenary literature, collected at the time and carefully arranged. Many valuable contributions have been received from collectors, authors, and publishers; and this library includes a large number of French and German books. The honorary secretaries, Mr. J. H. Chamberlain and Mr. Sam. Timmins, are constantly receiving donations, and a liberal annual subscription has been commenced for the further purchase of books, portraits, prints, &c., which in any way illustrate Shakespeare's life and works. As the novelty, interest, and value of a library formed exclusively of one author's works and the literature they have produced becomes known, and as the permanence of this selection is secured, every year will add to the treasures in the Birmingham Shakespeare Library, and it promises soon to become not only unique in Europe, but, in the words of Mr. Charles Knight, will "realise the best idea of honouring the memory of the greatest of England's sons."

TUSCAN STRAW HATS.—The fame of Italian straw hats and bonnets is spread far and wide; the only thing it may be desirable to explain to the public regarding them is the high price they fetch in the market. A short description of the various manipulations required for their manufacture will clear up the mystery. The long and thin straw necessary for the purpose can only be obtained by a peculiar mode of cultivation. The fields set apart for it are carefully dug, all the clods broken, the stones picked out, and a certain amount of sand is mixed with the soil. The process of sowing is repeated several times in order to ensure a crowded growth, whereby the stalk becomes tall and slender. The grain used in Tuscany for the purpose is wheat, or else a peculiar kind of rye; the straw of the latter is not so strong, but much finer than that of the former. The field is reaped long before the ears are ripe; the sheaves are set up erect in the field for twenty-four hours, and then undone and spread out on pebbles or on turf for exposure to the action of the sun and dew. The straw is then bleached for the first time by means of sulphurous acid. It is next cut into lengths of four inches, the ear and lower part of the stalk, which is generally coarse, being thus got rid of; after which, a second exposure to sulphurous vapours takes place. Now comes the sorting, which is done by females with astonishing skill. The slightest difference of thickness is at once detected, and every straw put into its proper pigeon-hole. The range of numbers is from 37 to 137 for wheat, and to 180 for rye. The next operation is plying, which is as common a work in Tuscany as knitting is elsewhere. The length of a braid varies from between fifty to fifty-five yards. A common No. 30 hat will take a month to do; a fine No. 120 or 130, six months. Next follows the operation of sewing and cleansing; the seams are all but invisible. Any slight irregularity is removed by rubbing down with dog-skin; and should there happen to be a rent, it is mended with inconceivable dexterity. Cleansing and bleaching are again repeated, and then the hat is fit for sale. Tuscan annually exports between 12 and 15 millions of francs' worth of straw hats, and about half that sum of plaited straw. Women earn from one to two francs a day by the latter.

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